△ Korea's Declaration
△ With One Will and One Mind

Korea Today

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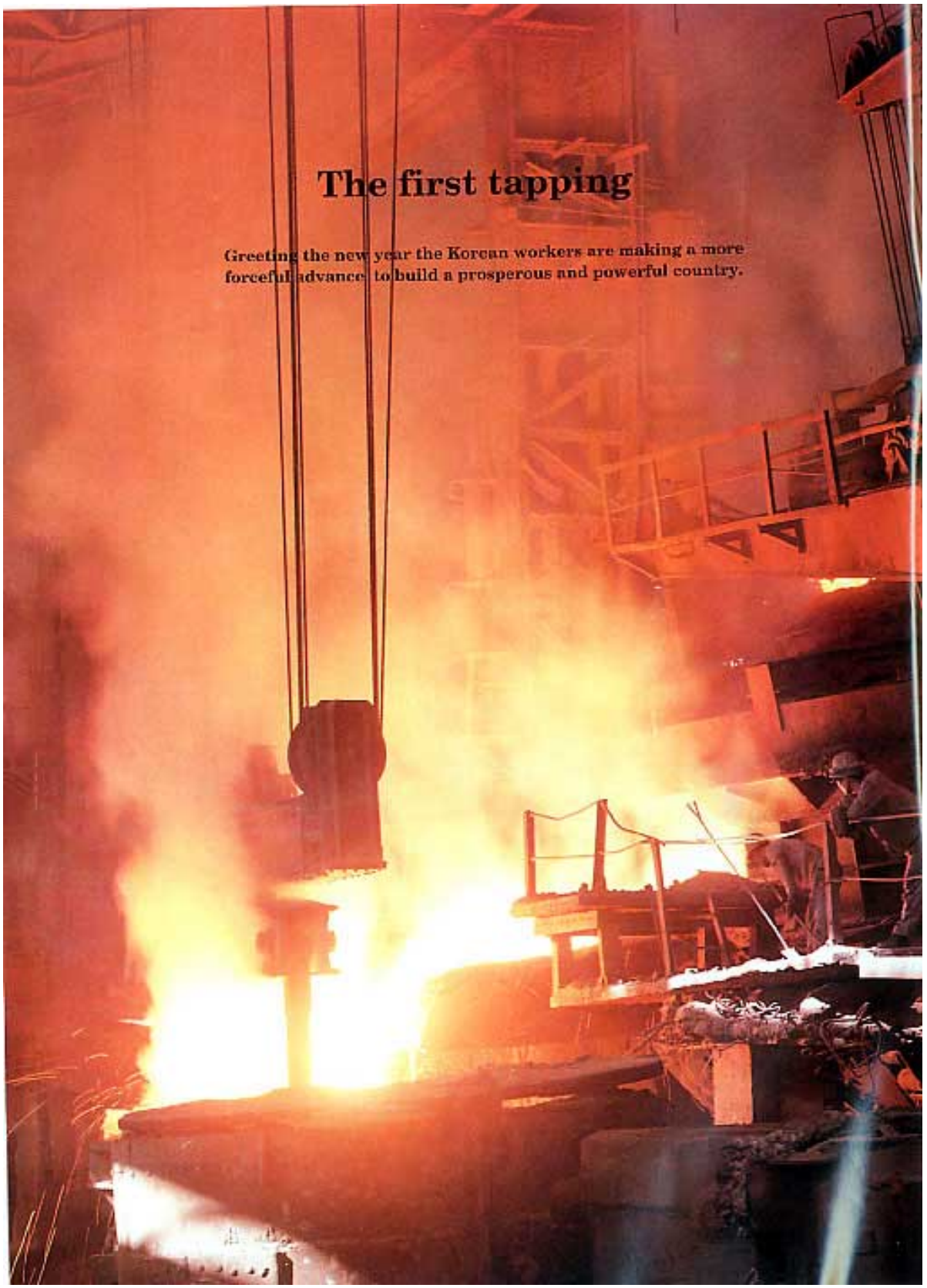
Juche 91 (2002)



The first tapping

Greeting the new year the Korean workers are making a more forceful advance to build a prosperous and powerful country.

Greeting the New Year

The new year 2002 has dawned.

Greeting the hopeful second year of the 21st century, the editorial board of Korea Today extends its best wishes to you, the readers.

Last year, the first year of the 21st century, was a year in which a great stride was made on mankind's road of progress and prosperity. The progressives of the world waged a vigorous struggle for independence and peace, setting higher goals than ever before.

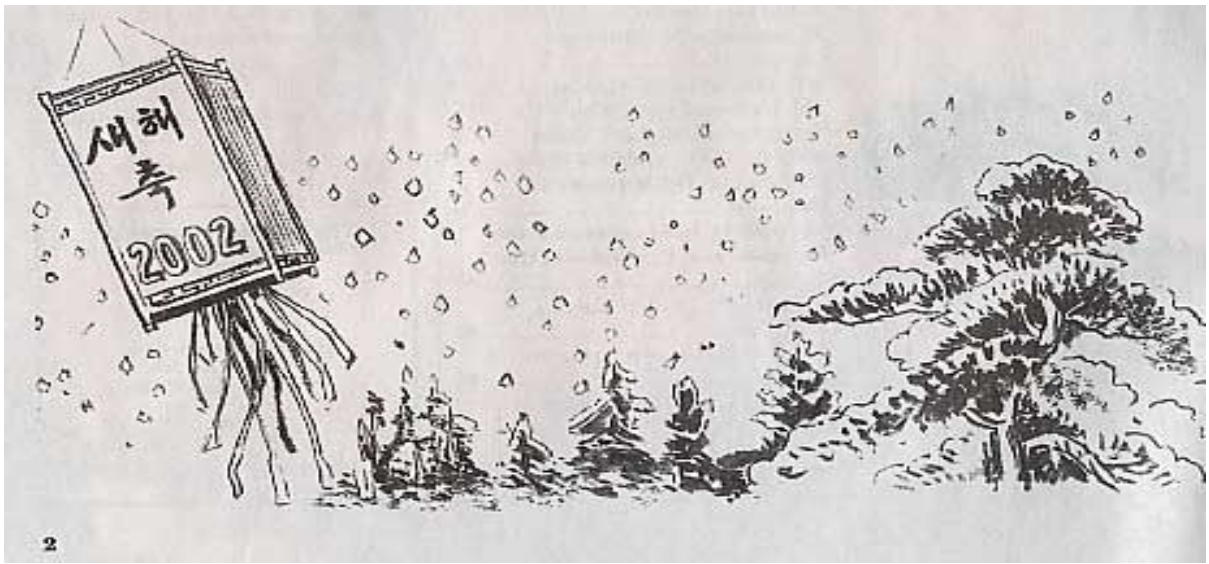
To live in a peaceful and stable world harmoniously and in a civilized way is the common desire of mankind. The Korean people, cherishing peace, have made their own contribution to the cause of national prosperity, and peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world.

Last year they made devoted efforts under the slogan "Let's open up a way for the new century in the spirit of the victorious 'Arduous March'!" Projects for technical reconstruction of the national economy were pushed forward positively, fishfarms, chicken and goat farms and an ostrich farm were built, and housing construction got under way in the capital city and provincial areas.

The Monument to Three Charters for National Reunification was opened, marking the 56th anniversary of Korea's liberation (August 15, 1945). The Grand National Reunification Festival 2001, a convocation of delegates from the north, south and abroad, was held successfully, heightening the fever for reunification.

Endeavours were made, to develop good neighbourly and fraternal relations with other countries under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship, and diplomatic relations were established with the European Union and many other countries.

This year, too, the Korean people will fulfil their duty as a member nation of this planet, and do as much as possible to achieve the accomplishment of the cause of enduring progress and global peace.. They will make further efforts for national reunification, the most cherished desire of the nation, oppose a unipolar world and dominationism, work to realize a multipolar world, and strive to meet the demands of the present times in which all countries want to live independently and on an equal footing.



We Will Advance Confidently

We, officials and workers of the Ryongsong Machinery Complex, are firmly resolved to increase production this year.

Last year's experience shows that where there is a will, there Though we had many difficulties to overcome, we pushed ahead with our work boldly and ambitiously from early last year, and succeeded in producing equipment for the reconstruction and modernization of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and other metallurgical works, for the normalization of production at the Pukchang Thermal-Power Complex and other power stations, and for the coal industry, all on schedule.

Set before us is the heavy yet honourable task of producing more equipment for various sec tors of the national economy this year, in order to make it more independent and for its development as a whole.

This year we will organize our work more carefully, fully tap our internal reserves, make collective technical innovations and normalize our production.

We senior staff will go to the production sites, solve problems in good time, provide every condition for production and thereby steadily increase production.

Choe Hyon, Chief Engineer Ryongsong Maehinery Complex

We Will Increase Power Production

Greeting the second year of the 21st century, we, management, technicians and workers in the power industry, are filled with a resolve to carry out the tasks assigned to us and thus contribute to making our country powerful and prosperous.

My plant, Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex, which is playing a leading role in the development of the power industry, marked the 40th anniversary of its inauguration last year.

During those 40 years, the managers and workers at the complex, deeply conscious of their mission, have consolidated the material and technical foundations of the complex to increase power production.

In line with the requirements of the new century, we will organize economic works in a rational way, with innovative and progressive working methods. Technical upgrading projects will be boldly undertaken, and the plant will be further modernized, strengthening the basis for electricity generation.

My turbine workshop is the heart of the complex. I have long worked at this shop. I will continue to conduct major organizational tasks and political activities among the workers, setting an example and encouraging them to bring about continued innovation in their work. The nation's trust and expectation will be rewarded with increased power production.

Jo Yong Gi, Labour Hero and advi8or at the turbine work8hop, Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex

NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE

We Will Hit Coal Target Ahead of Others

Last year my tunnelling workteam achieved great success in the struggle to implement the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea to increase coal production.

The process, of course, was not smooth. On many occasions the short supply of electricity and materials and other problems blocked our path, but we kept the tunnelling speed on target every month even by doing manual tunnelling when compressors were out of order.

We thus distinguished ourselves as the high-speed tunnelling workteam in our coal mine.

This year, too, the coal industry is playing an important role in socialist economic construction. Conditions for coal production are as difficult as ever.

Our team, however, is filled with the resolve to secure good-quality coal seams through continuing high-speed tunnelling campaign.

To this end, we will do drilling, dirt removal and propping simultaneously and thus speed up the tunnelling.

In particular, we will actively introduce advanced blasting methods, including a rational method of effecting maximum blasting efficiency.

Along with this, we will keep tunnelling equipment and tools in good order so that they run at full capacity during our work.

Therefore, we will hit our tunnelling target ahead of other teams and secure coal seams with good prospects to contribute to an increase in coal production.

Han Chol Hae, leader of tunnelling workteam at pit No. 3, February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine under Sunchon Area Youth Coal Mining Complex

Single-Hearted Unity of Korea

THE world's public spare to praise for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is advancing unwaveringly along the road of socialism.

The chairman of the National Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea in Jordan said: "Socialism in Korea is getting stronger with each passing day. The first country to build the ideal society dreamed of by mankind will be the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I have been firmly convinced of this from long ago.

" Korea has formed a grand harmonious family through the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, and its own style of socialism is being built under the banner of the Juche Idea."

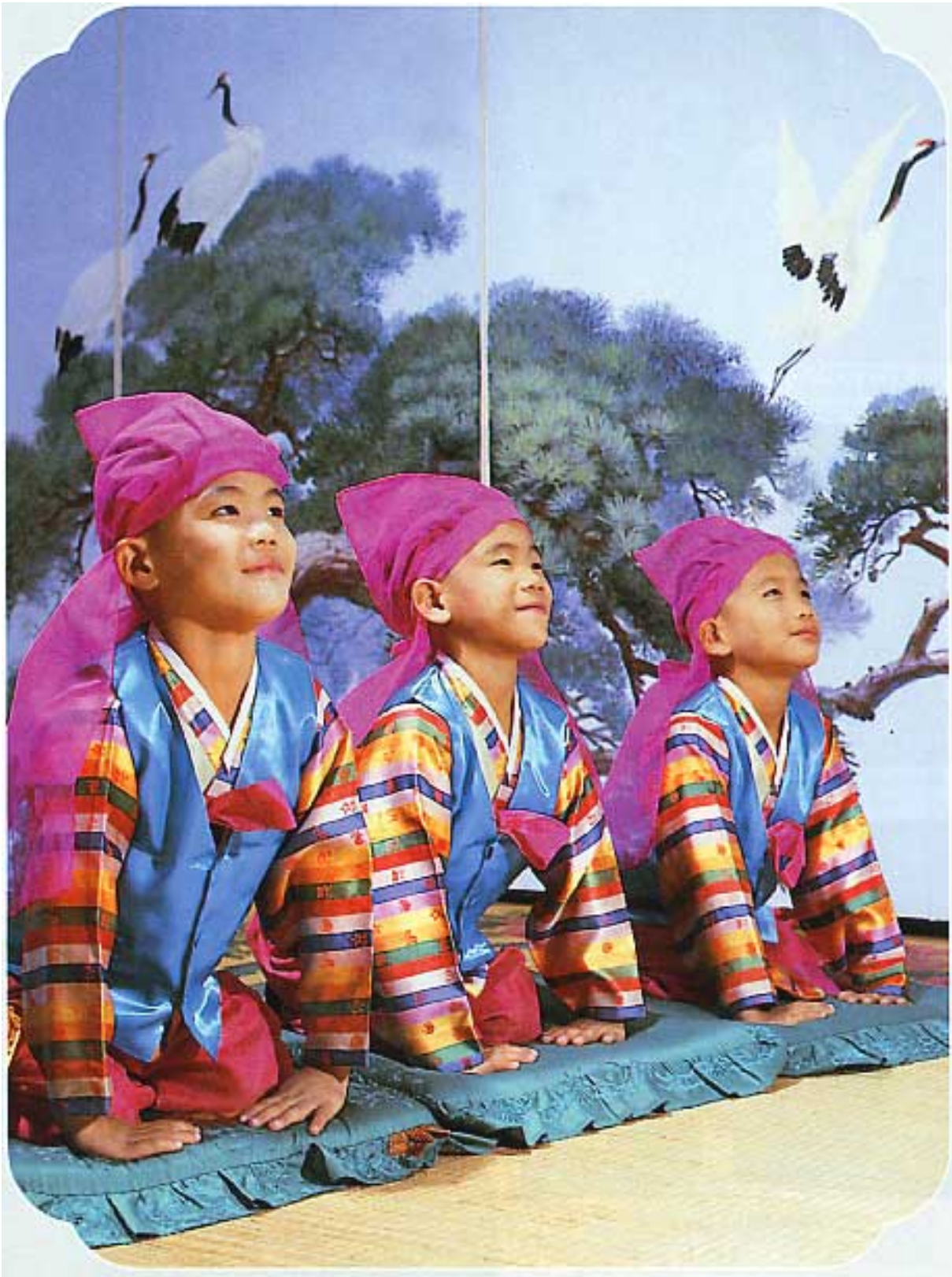
A member of the executive committee of the Anti-Imperialist Front of France, who recently visited the DPRK for the first time, pointed out: "I've been given great energy, seeing the monumental structure built in Pyongyang and realizing the fact that the DPRK is advancing unflinchingly despite the imperialists' ceaseless pressure and blockade. I ponder deeply on the source of this energy. The unescapable conclusion is that it is created by the firm unity of the Party and the masses and the ideological and volitional unity of the leader and people.

" Korea is a powerful country of single-hearted unity. The remarkable social relations developed in Korea, where single-hearted unity prevails, do not come from only its fine social system. These relations are a brilliant fruition of leader Kim Jong IL's politics of benevolence, full of love and confidence. The unity of Korea is unique, for it can be found nowhere else in the world."

The leader of the Palang Dharma (Righteous Force) Party of Thailand said: " The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is advancing along the road of victory without the slightest deviation or vicissitude, despite the stern trials of history, thanks to the achievements of leader Kim Jong IL. He has strengthened and developed the Workers' Party of Korea into an invincible revolutionary party and brought about the single-hearted unity of the revolutionary forces confidence in, and love for, the people."

A prominent figure of Madagacar pointed out that the progressive people of the world call the DPRK a " country of single-hearted unity" and a harmonious whole. This is entirely due to leader Kim Jong IL, he noted.

In his article titled" The 21st Century Is Kim Jong IL's Century", Vishwannath, secretary-general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, noted:" The Korean people have risen as one, looking up to General Kim Jong IL, who works tirelessly for his people. " His image, embedded in the hearts of the people, is the source of inexhaustible strength with which to turn Korea into a powerful and prosperous country."



Triplets make New Year bows for Juche 90 (2002)

Working people look round the show.

An aromatic-tree miniascape.

A woody garden zinnia.

Part of the show.

Foreigners visiting the show.

Korea Horticultural Centre

Our country, with beautiful mountains and clear waters, is abundant in beautiful flowers.

Indigenous Korean flowers flourish and can be found everywhere.

From ancient times, our people have loved flowers, cultivating them widely. Today, interest in flowers and demand for them is increasing as the days go by.

KHC is an industrial horticultural organization charged with the development of flower cultivation and the exchange of horticultural technology, joint-ventures and collaboration with other countries.

The organization plays an important role in collecting and spreading the best varieties of flowers by introducing and publicizing advanced technology and know-how in the field. It periodically organises world and national flower exhibitions.

A flower exhibition is lield annually at the April 15 Children's Flower Garden in Mangyongdae District, and attracts the public to visit and buy KHC's products.

The Pyongyang Flower Exhibition, managed by KUC, is also held here,drawing international interest.

Its products include bouquets from flowering plants and arbores, dried flowers, potted flowers, potted plants, floral shrubs, garden trees, artificial flowers, flower arrangements, industrial art, stuffed specimens, flower pots, seed, flints and flow-
erpot soil.

KHC's main flowers are the world-famous Kimilsungia, Kimjongilia, three famous flowers (chrysanthemum, Dianthus caryophyllus and rose) and saplings of Korean native species. It is particularly interested in growing those flowers of one species in one genus (Echinosophora koreensis Nakai, Abeliophylllum distichum Nakai, Kumgang zabel Stephanandra incisa) which result from the peculiarities of the Korean climate, with its four seasons and great differences in the height of land above sea level, as well as native Korean flowers.

KHC also intends to produce, exchange and spread various flower products as well.

It already possesses the potential to carry out these tasks.

KHC has built its own horticultural industry foundations and has horticultural research institutes staffed by able specialists and technicians which can grow beautiful plants of various kinds on a large scale.

It publishes the periodical "Korean Horticultural Bulletin" to introduce flowers of superior quality to the public, and even records them on videotape when needed.

Last year, marking the 53rd anniversary of the Republic's foundation, the Second Pyongyang Flower Exhibition was held for a week. Tens of thousands of flower lovers visited with great interest.

During the exhibition, Kimjongilia, the "king" of flowers, evoked the biggest response from visitors.

Kim Se Wang, the president of KHC, recalled the admiration of King Norodom Shihanuk of Cambodia, who said that Kimiongilia is "the best" and a "really beautiful flower". He stated that Kimjongilia, the immortal flower, got the supreme prize, the "Grand" and a diploma of honour at the China 99 Kunming World Flower Exhibition.

At that time, the deputy head of the Kunming Plant Research Institute of China Academy of Sciences, said, "Kimjongilia is the 'king' of flowers. Seeing the Koreans grow Kimjongilia with great care, we are deeply impressed by their loyalty to their leader."

KHC scientists and technicians are carefully planning their work to ensure better cultivation of Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia. It is because of this meticulous preparation that the organization has been so successful.

The staff put a great deal of effort into introducing advanced technology. As a result, in September last year, a ground-breaking ceremony took place for a greenhouse of the Pyongyang Euro-Asia joint-venture company.

The joint venture's site covers tens of thousands of square metres. Advanced technology will be introduced to this greenhouse to cultivate vegetables and flowers on a large scale.

Korea’s Declaration

A pproaching good will with good will and responding to a hard line with a harder line is Korea’s consistent position.

Recorded in the revolutionary history of President Kim Ii Sung and leader Kim Jong IL are many stories showing the fact that both of them strove to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with those people who are friendly to the DPRK and took a hard-line attitude without the slightest compromise towards the enemies of independence and progress.

In summer last year, Kim Jong IL paid an official visit to the Russian Federation. During his Russian visit of more than 20 days, he created a fresh opportunity for further expanding and developing friendly, good neighbourly and cooperative relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. His visit to the Russian Federation was an event of weighty significance in deepening the close relationship between the leaders of the two countries, further promoting mutual understanding, trust, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries and advancing the development of friendly relations between the two countries in the new century.

It is the invariable stand of the Workers' Party of Korea to promote mutual understanding, trust, friendship and cooperation with those countries which are friendly to the DPRK and to deal crushing blows to those countries which infringe upon the sovereignty and dignity of our country.

Today the machinations of the imperialists to stifle our Republic are being continued as ever. The United States is alleging a "missile threat" and a "threat of conventional armed forces" from the DPRK, resorting to every conceivable means to damage the country, including military threats and diplomatic pressure, on the pretext of coping with this "threat".

However, the Korean people are reliably defending national sovereignty and dignity. They are now advancing dynamically along the road of socialism, frustrating all sorts of schemes of the imperialist allied forces and the reactionaries who plot to isolate and stifle the DPRK and Korean socialism. They recall to their minds an event that happened in the last decade of the 20th century and added a brilliant page to the history of Korea.

In spring nine years ago the US announced that it would resume the temporarily suspended Team Spirit joint military exercise with the south of Korea and staged a large-scale war rehearsal.

In response to this war exercise, an order of the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army was issued in our country. In this order on placing the entire country, all the people and the whole army on a semi-war footing,

Kim Jong IL resolutely declared that the enemies must understand that they could not touch even an inch of land and even a blade of grass in our Republic. Then he saw to it that the DPRK government issued a statement saying that it would quit the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Owing to the leader’s nerve and boldness the machinations of the enemies to isolate and stifle our Republic ended in failure.

The Korean people still remember the atrocities committed at Sidaogou in Juche 24 (1935).

Early in the morning on the 15th of January (lunar) Japanese troops encircled Sidaogou village stealthily and then mowed down villagers at random by firing a volley of heavy and light machine-guns. Then they set fire to every house, stabbed with their bayonets those emerging from their blazing homes, irrespective of age or sex, and threw them back into the fire. In an hour the village was reduced to ashes. Only eight Korean children escaped from this tragedy.

On receipt of the news from Sidaogou, President Kim IL Sung dealt a heavy blow to the Japanese imperialists who had reduced Sidaogou village to a sea of blood.

Looking back upon those days, the President wrote in his reminiscences: "I have never shown mercy towards those who harmed our nation and infringed upon the sovereignty of our country, nor have I compromised with those who looked down upon our people or mocked them... If they struck us, we responded tit for tat: if they smiled at us, we smiled at them. A cake for a cake, and a stone for a stone-this is the principle of reciprocity I have adhered to all through my life."

The US armed spy ship Pueblo lies at anchor on the River Taedong in the capital city of Pyongyang.

In 1968 the US imperialists seriously threatened our

(Continued on Page 1

Poster “ Reckless provocation will incur self-destruction alone!”

The Beacon Lighting Korea's Path

Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is host to the Exhibition of Works on the Juche Idea.

Several years have passed since its inauguration, but it is still visited by many people today, too: industrial workers, students, office employees, farmers-people of all walks of life. Also among the visitors are progressives from other countries on visits to Korea.

Through the displayed works of leader Kim Jong IL, the visitors look back on the history of his ideological and theoretical activities and his exploits over the years.

Kim Jong IL has long played a key role in the development of the Juche idea.

The events of the autumn of Juche 60 (1971) are indicative of this.

Officials earnestly asked Kim Jong IL many times to take a rest from his work, as he was devoting himself to his work day and night. In response to their request he promised to do as they asked, and set out on a journey. The officials were happy. But their joy soon changed to irritation, for he visited nearby revolutionary battlesites and gave on-the-spot guidance to factories, cooperative farms and other units during the day while continuing to write at night.

Shortly afterwards officials pleaded with Kim Jong IL once again to sleep, even for a while, as he was staying up all night. After listening to their request, he said he had still not formulated the revolutionary idea of President Kim Ii Sung. How could he go to sleep, he asked, saying that even without sleep he did not have enough time to do his work.

Several months later, the 60th birthday of the President was celebrated.

The event prompted revolutionary people the world over to send gifts reflecting their reverence and respect for the President.

Looking round the gifts, which were put on display, Kim Jong IL stood still for a long while before a book which had worn, well-fingered pages. It was a work of President Kim IL Sung which the chief of an embattled organization in Africa had read avidly, carrying with him at all times before leaving it to his comrades-in-arms during the last moments of his life.

Kim Jong IL said to the accompanying officials, "Today the revolutionary idea of President Kim IL Sung has become a weapon of struggle which the revolutionaries of our era will not barter for anything. History proves that the beliefs I have held for so long are correct."

Later, he established the Juche idea of the President as the guiding idea of our era and put forward a programme for modelling the whole of society on it. On this basis he conducted ideological and theoretical activities vigorously, constantly enriching the treasure-house of the Juche idea. A number of new works were published. They include the book "On the Juche Idea", which develops the Juche idea into a complete system by clarifying in an all-round way the origin of the Juche idea, the philosophical principles consistent with it, its main content and its historical significance. By these efforts, he armed the popular masses, the subject of the history, with the idea and gave the perfect answer to all problems raised by today's society.

When a grave situation was created in Korea due to the clamour of the US imperialists for an inspection of the DPRK's nuclear facilities, combined with their military moves aimed at unleashing another war, Kim Jong IL made public his work "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" through newspapers and radio and TV broadcasts.

In the works "Our Socialism, Centred on the Masses, Shall Not Perish" and "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party", Kim Jong IL addressed the issue of how to markedly increase the might of the driving force of the Korean revolution, laid bare the reactionary nature and absurdity of the sophistry of the imperialists and the renegades of socialism, and scientifically explained the root cause of the frustration of socialism in a number of countries. These books clearly indicated the way to realize the rebuilding of socialism throughout the world.

Kim Jong IL attaches great importance to ideological and theoretical activities in leading the revolution and construction, and directs a great deal of energy to this end. This has been clearly demonstrated during the years following the unexpected death of the President.

Although he was suffering greater pain than anybody else at the demise of the President, Kim Jong IL published "Socialism Is a Science". Just 100 days after the President had passed away, he said, "The Juche idea is the one and only guiding idea for our revolution and construction. It is the life and soul of our nation. If our people are to live on, they must arm themselves firmly with the Juche idea and travel only along the road indicated by it."

Kim Jong IL has published many other works, including "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism" and "On Preserving the Juche Character and National Character of the Revolution and Construction", even while he was unceasingly touring various parts of the country to provide field guidance.

Kim Jong IL's writings are the beacon illumining the road ahead for the Korean people. In the recent unprecedentedly difficult years, our people have become men and women of unshakeable faith and Korean socialism has turned into an impregnable fortress which no force can destroy. This is because he has shown the way ahead through his immortal ideology and theory.

In the future, too, the Korean people will forge ahead along the road indicated by Kim Jong IL.

Political Veteran Trusted by All People

-The world extols the Korean leader

The world public, including political party leaders and distinguished figures of many countries, describe the history of leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong IL of the Workers' Party of Korea as that of a mature, seasoned statesman, proclaiming his greatness.

The general secretary of the Central Committee of the AllIndia Progressive Front, said, “Respected Comrade Kim Jong Ii, who has always won only victories in the course of long revolutionary activities, is the most experienced and refined statesman and the greatest man of our age. His politics are a new, original form of politics without precedent in political history. They are ever-victorious, with the greatest power and vitality. His independent, army-centred politics, benevolent and all-embracing, are the source of all victories in Korea. With uncommon, penetrating insight and practical political ability, he has made immortal achievements, for which he enjoys the absolute respect and trust of all people."

The chairman of the Romanian Socialist Party said that Comrade Kim Jong IL had led the revolution and construction to victories and performed immortal exploits as a political leader of distinguished ability. He stressed that under his leadership, the Workers' Party of Korea had been strengthened and developed into a powerful, dignified and indestructible party which enjoys high international prestige.

The general secretary of the Peruvian Socialist Revolutionary Party said, "Comrade Kim Jong IL is an ideological and theoretical genius, a great leader and a rare general. Under his army-centred leadership, he has trained the Korean People’s Army into an invincible army. He intelligently leads the Korean people in their struggle to build a powerful nation and reunify Korea. Thanks to him, Korea has been strong enough to boldly confront the US. All the achievements made by the Korean people are the brilliant fruition of his army-centred politics. He really is the most authoritative, experienced political leader and greatest man of practical ability of our age.

The secretary of the Central Committee of the Indian Revolutionary Socialist Party emphasized,” Comrade Kim Jong IL is equipped with all the qualities a revolutionary leader should have. As they are led by him, the Korean people have a bright future of eternal prosperity. While leading the Korean revolution, he has fully displayed the qualities of a great leader with absolute authority, and performed immortal exploits over decades.”

The chairman of the Nigerian Kimjongilisin study group said that His Excellency Kim Jong IL had worked a miracle unprecedented in world political history with his remarkable ideo-theoretical activities and art of leadership, and continued, “His unusual leadership ability as a political veteran of the world was fully displayed at the time when socialism collapsed in the East European countries and the imperialists worked desperately to stifle the DPRK. Under his wise leadership, socialist Korea is today vigorously moving ahead without the slightest vacillation. His Excellency Kim Jong Ii, the great leader of the Korean people, is the most outstanding statesman, unmatched in the exploits of world political history."

(Continued from Page 8)

Republic, talking about "bombing", "retaliation" and "ultimatum" as soon as their spy ship was captured by the navy of the Korean People's Army, having intruded deep into the territorial waters of our country. When a tense war-threatening situation was created and the world uneasily watched the Korean peninsula the DPRK replied "We will retaliate for retaliation and return all-out war for all-out war!"

At the time the President declared resolutely: "If the US imperialists persist in their attempt to solve this matter by mobilizing their armed forces to threaten and blackmail us, they will get nothing out of it...

"We do not want war, but we are not afraid of it. Our people and People's Army will retaliate for the 'retaliation' of the US imperialists, return all-out war for all-out war."

During the same period Kim Jong IL said in the following vein: We have fighting exploits accomplished and rich war enemies—the US and Japanese imperialists. Ours is a heroic people united firmly around the President. If the US imperialists dare to unleash a war in disregard of our warning, we must fight to the finish against our enemies. We will humble the arrogant US imperialists who are craving "retaliation" and all-out war, and will demonstrate our invincible might to the whole world once again.

This is not confined to the Pueblo incident alone. Recorded in the annals of the 20th century are a number of delightful incidents which chipped the wings of the US imperialists, such as the EC-121 reconnaissance plane incident and the Panmunjom incident.

The Korean people are well aware that making one concession to the imperialists will result in ten or even a hundred concessions, and will ultimately lead to ruin.

We, the Korean people, who have inherited the spirit of the generals of Mt. Paektu, will mete out severe punishment to those who infringe upon our sovereignty and dignity no matter where they are.

Demonstrators proceed with a determination to be loyal to the WPK's army-centred politics.

Beginning of Army-Centred Politics

The red flag is associated with the lifelong endeavours of President Kim IL Sung, who opened up the path for the Korean revolution by force of arms. It also reflects the unwavering faith and firm will of leader Kim Jong IL, who is determined to complete the Korean revolution by force of arms. The Korean people are now advancing dynamically, holding this flag high.

The army-centred politics of the Korean revolution has a history of 70 years, since the founding of the Korean revolutionary armed forces was proclaimed on the plateau at Tuqidian in the Antu area of Manchuria.

Today, when our country is at the zenith of the army-centred revolution under the leadership of Kim Jong IL, the Korean people can trace the history of the Korean revolution in detail.

On display in room No. 7 of the Korean Revolution Museum, situated in the midtown area of the capital city, is a pistol. It is one of the two pistols which President Kim Ii Sung inherited from his father Kim Hyong Jik. Kim Il Sung pushed his way through the thorny path of the revolution carrying this pistol with him; in the days of the arduous struggle for the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (AJPGA) and in the days of the bloody anti-Japanese war.

The pistol mirrors every detail of the Korean revolution, which was hewed out and. won victory after victory by force of arms and with our blood.

Kim Hyong Jik, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement in Korea, left two pistols as a legacy for the young President who set out on the road of revolution.

After putting forward the policy of liberating the country through an armed struggle, the President held high the two pistols left by his father and said:

"Look, these are the pistols my father left for me... My father's desire was to launch an armed struggle. When he left me these two pistols, I made a firm resolution to do what he desired in his place. The time has come. Let us start our march for independence with these two pistols to help us. We now have two pistols, but one day they will have multiplied to two hundred, two thousand and then to twenty thousand. With 2,000 rifles, we will be able to liberate the country. Let us multiply these two pistols into two thousand and then twenty thousand rifles."

The Mingyuegou Meeting held in December Juche 20 (1931) constituted a historic turning point in the Korean revolution, which has advanced under the policy of giving foremost prominence to the army.

The meeting confirmed the line of waging an armed struggle with guerrilla warfare as the basic form, formally proclaiming the anti-Japanese war with a view to annihilating the Japanese imperialists under the slogan "Oppose armed force with armed force, and resist counterrevolutionary violence with revolutionary violence!" When the discussion was over, the joy of the young communists around the President was sky-high. They rose to their feet as one and sang the Song of Revolution and Internationale. It was the day they became able to see the founding of the Korean army which they had longed for so much, beating their breasts whenever they lost their own flesh and blood an

comrades on account of the Japanese imperialists' sanguinary oppression and punitive operations.

Several months later, on April 25 in Juche 21 (1932), the founding ceremony of the AJPGA was held on the plateau at Tuqidian surrounded by larch trees.

President Kim IL Sung, in his twenties at the time, looked at the fresh, sturdy soldiers who, dressed in their new uniforms and with their guns on their shoulders, lined up in unit order. His eyes shone as if reflecting the far-off future of the Korean nation.

How many miles the comrades had walked and how many of them had laid down their lives in the course of forming this armed force! The AJPGA was a priceless creation of the Korean revolution, born of the indomitable revolutionary spirit of President Kim IL Sung for the country and people and of the bloody struggle and sacrifice of many Korean revolutionaries under his leadership.

On May Day, not long after its founding, the AJPGA entered the county town of Antu with the red flag flying at the front and marched in parade.

This is how the era of attaching the highest importance to the army when the revolution is led by force of arms began.

Our revolutionary armed forces, which were founded through an arduous struggle, had to wage a life and death struggle with the enemy from the outset.

In the course of an expedition into south Manchuria, which was conducted in accordance with the strategic plan of the President, the AJPGA had their first fierce battle with Japanese troops near the boundary between Antu and Fusong counties.

In the unexpected encounter with the enemy soldiers during the march, the guerrilla army annihilated all of them, but it lost several men. The President buried his dear comrades on the nameless hill and held a funeral ceremony before their graves. He could not bring himself to leave for a long time.

Many stories are recorded in the Korean history of attaching great importance to arms, for they had to cross hills smeared with blood, paying dearly for the struggle against the enemy from the beginning. Here we introduce one of them.

One day President Kim IL Sung, who was making preparations for an expedition into south Manchuria, called on his mother, who was suffering from a serious illness.

His mother went through all sorts of hardships throughout her life, helping her husband, sons and relatives as well as revolutionary comrades in their struggle to liberate the country. She severely scolded the President when he called on her, carrying a large mal of foxtail millet with him (a large mal of grain is about 15kg of grain): "How can a man who has turned out with a determination to win back his country cope with the great cause when he has such a weak heart and so many worries about his home? You should be thiaking of your uncles who are in prison rather than worrying about household affairs. You must think of your
lost country and its people... .if in the future you ever think to come home, anxious about your mother, don't turn up before this door."

Later, the President recalled those days, full of deep emotion, saying:

I travelled the path of bloody battles, the path of severe frost, the path of starvation beyond human imagination, together with my comrades-in-arms for decades. And each time I ran up against an ordeal which tested my faith as a revolutionary, I would renew my resolve by recalling the words my mother said to me as she pushed me off to south Manchuria, and the last image of my mother dressed in white seeing me off, before seeking recourse to any ideology or philosophical proposition.

In the days when he was launching the armed struggle, he lost his uncle Kim Hyong Gwon, a member of the Korean Revolutionary Army, because of the Japanese imperialists. His younger brother Kim Chol Ju also died in a battle with Japanese troops.

The founding of the Korean revolutionary armed force and the victorious anti-Japanese war were the fruit of the bloody struggle accompanied by suffering and sacrifice, a struggle which can hardly be measured by the existing human concept of war.

Thanks to the history of attaching great importance to arms carved out by the President, a new era of independence, an era in which the popular masses can properly maintain their dignity has been opened in this land.

Korean Proverbs

. Jewels glitter only when they are polished.
. Knowledge is power.
. The hardship undergone in one’s youthful days cannot be bartered for gold.

Social Virtue

All the citizens of the DPRK support the Korean People's Army both materially and morally because they believe the security of their country and their own lives can be defended only by the army.

The employees of the retail outlet of the pharmaceutical corporation of the Ministry of Public Health, for example, have been taking care of KPA soldiers as if they were their own flesh and blood for more than ten years. The shop is located in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

During this period, the employees created a medicinal herb field and produced a variety of pharmaceutical products, evidence of how hard they have worked to support the army.

One day in February Juche 84 (1995), manager Kim Hui Suk, 45, who had never been completely satisfied with her shop's work to support the army, appealed to the employees. "Our job is to supply medicine. But we have not completely fulfilled our task of supporting the army. Let us produce by ourselves and send the tonics necessary to maintain the soldiers' health," she said.

The employees unanimously responded to her call.

It was no easy job for them because they were all women, only just over ten in number. They had to create a medicinal herb field and obtain materials with which to make tonics all by themselves.

The situation was made more difficult by the fact that the whole country was on the "Arduous March" at the time.

The employees, however, buckled down to the work of creating the medicinal herb field, with the determination to do what they planned even if it meant tightening their belts.

They pitched a tent on a remote mountain resounding with the cries of beasts and began to clear the stony ground. They removed the stones by carrying them on their backs, spread soil good for herb cultivation and weeded the site, all with great effort.

As a result they laid a fine medicinal herb field covering an area of 1.5 hectares in less than a year. It now produces large quantities of a variety of medical materials every year. They are used to make nutritious and invigorative toffees which are sent to soldiers, helping them strengthen their bodies.

Excited by the news of the shop’s undertaking to aid the soldiers, several former employees who had retired from the shop came to see the manager and pleaded, "We are now leading a comfortable life on social welfare entirely because the army is firmly defending the country. So allow us, former Merited Pharmacists, to do our bit in this work."

They played an important role in producing dozens of kinds of tonics, such as cocar nutritive toffee, Cassia tora tea, Ryukmihwan and so on.

Having been strengthened by the medicines, the EPA soldiers are not only defending the country but are also engaged in the work of improving the people's living standards. They have distinguished themselves in many civil projects, such as land realignment and the construction of power stations, the Anbyon Youth Power Station in particular, a cultural recreation center on Mt. Kuwol and modern catfish and chicken farms.

This is why in the DPRK it is socially praised as an excellent virtue to dedicate one's effort and skills to the soldiers.

Sung Ji Hye

Workers at the retail outlet of the pharmaceutical corporation of the Ministry of Public Health prepare aid-goods for soldiers.

School of Heroes

NOT long ago I visited Kang-so Senior Middle School No. 1, soon after it had been awarded Hero School status, a title given to schools which have produced many DPRK Heroes.

When I entered the school compound, the school's name board dominated my view, as if it represented the honour and pride of the school.

The school principal told me with overwhelming happiness that people ceaselessly visit his school to hear the story behind its new status.

He guided me into the school building, where my eyes were immediately drawn to a board of honour, on which photographs of the 12 Heroes produced by the school were displayed, along with descriptions of what they had done.

While I closely studied the photos, I heard the principal say that they also had a book containing more detailed information about the Heroes.

The principal found the book and showed it to me. It contains the Heroes' names, birthdays, graduation dates and the dates when they were awarded the title of DPRK Hero, and a description of their feats.

They include the school's first Hero, Kim Ryong Hyon, who, as the deputy platoon leader of a coastal artillery company, played a key role in destroying the US warships which entered the waters off Wonsan during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953). Other Heroes of the Republic, and Labour Heroes produced in the course of socialist construction such as Hyon Jun Thaek, who distinguished himself by his heroic feats in the constmction of the West Sea Barrage, are also listed. I also learned that Ri Nam Jon, who, at the age of 18, unhesitatingly sacrificed himself to save his revolutionary comrades from the brink of death, and Ri Ok Sang, a famous farm worker Heroine who made a great contribution to national agricultural production, were both the graduates of the school.

As I absorbed the details of these heroic feats, the principal told me that the book was read fondly by his students, who boasted of their school's famous graduates.

He added that his school had produced a several-volumed series on Korean heroes, books which are widely used.

The books comprise summaries of the feats of the Heroes produced at every stage of the Korean revolution, as well as the diaries and notes they left behind.

The principal said that his school used the books to educate its students in the heroes' spirit of loving their homeland and readily dedicating their lives to it.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to attend a students' public speaking event, an activity conducted frequently, I was told.

Those who took the floor included Song Hyon Il, a grandson of Heroine Ri Yon Ok. Song said, "Not long ago, I took part in our school's work of making a sand model for the map of our country. Once, without any consideration, I neglected to make models for several islands along the Korean west coast because they are quite small.

"Discovering my omission later, the teacher rebuked me, saying, 'Hyon Ii, the islands are those which senior Heroes Kim Ryong Hyon and Kim Sung Du, and other sons and daughters of this country, defended at the cost of their blood, even their lives. How can you ignore these islands?'

"That night I could not sleep. I felt all the more keenly that patriotism is not formed by special events alone, but begins to bud in our everyday lives.

"Comrades!"I will value a handful of soil of our homeland as preciously as my life. I am prepared to lay down my youth and my hopes for the sake of our country and people, just as the Heroes produced by our school did before. I swear that I will become the first Hero of our school in the 21st century."

Other students who took the floor after him uttered their firm determination to become Heroes, saying that they would not forget what their teachers said as they spared no effort to help the students become future pillars of the country.

Watching the students carrying forward the spirit of the Heroes, I thought about how much effort the

(Continued on Page 18)

Teachers and students of Hero Kangso Senior Middle School No.1.

From Kim IL Sung's Reminiscences "With the Century"

With My Comrades-in-Arms of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army

(Continued from the previous issue) In the days of the JAF I also met Chai Shi-rong again. I still vividly remember how he hugged me tightly and called me "Old Kim" "Old Kim", and rubbed his rough cheek against mine. He was about 20 years older than I, and so I asked him if, by addressing me as a senior, he intended to make me, Kim IL Sung, an old man, and exploded with laughter. To this he said, "Age doesn't matter, because you, Commander Kim. are a senior who led me to become a communist".

gent and the 4th Contingent, respectively.

Now Chai Shi-rong has also become a man of the old times. I do not know in which year he passed away. When I look at the photo I had taken with Chal at the training base in the Far East region, I still feel deep emotions. It is a vivid picture which shows how communist ideology transformed a man.

Once Hu Zhen-yi, widow of Chai Shi-rong, visited Pyongyang with her son. She had gone to the training base

Chai Shi-rong's real name was Chai Zhao-sheng. He said he had been chief of a police station somewhere in Helong County before the Japanese army con quered Manchuria. When the September 18 incident occurred, he organized a small armed unit with other policemen and rose against Manchukuo and the Japanese.

I became acquainted with Chai Shirong in 1933, when he was commanding a unit of the National Salvation Army in the area of Wangqing. Following our success in realizing cooperation with Wu Yi-cheng's unit, we had gone to meet Chai Shi-rong, but did not succeed in the negotiations with him at that time.

Nevertheless, in later years Chai Shirong allied with the communists. Eventually he herame a rnmmiinigt and

established a close friendship with me. We jointly waged the battle of the Dongning County town and the Luozigou Battle.

In later days, Chai Shi-rong moved the theatre of his activities to northern Manchuria and became commander of the 5th Corps of the NAJAA. During our second expedition to northern Manchuria, we conducted a number of joint operations with his unit. At that time Chal Shi-rong was in command of the headquarters of the central front. Our joint operations were conducted in the areas of Emu and Ningan.

Respecting me as a revolutionary senior, Chai was always deferential in my presence. Whenever this happened, I felt his noble personality. After the formation of the IAF, I and Chai Shi-rong were put in command of the 1st Contin after serving for some time in the 5th Corps of the NAJAA.

When grey-haired Hu Zhen-yi entered the Kumsusan Assembly Hall with her son, I pictured Chal Shi-rong in my mind.

Among my Chinese comrades-in-arms in the days of the LAF, there was also Feng Zhong-yun, who was political commissar of the 3rd Route Army of the NAJAA. Feng had been secretary of the Party branch committee of Qinghua University. He had been a teacher in Harbin for some time. After embarking upon the revolutionary road, he had been engaged in Party work in the North Manchuria Provincial Party Committee and in various counties under it. He had been imprisoned on two occasions, had been punished for an error in Party work and had twice received bullet wounds.

Zhang Shou-jian

Feng Zhong-yun

Feng Zhong-yun worked in the Soviet Union from the autumn of 1939 to February 1940 in order to solve the problem of military and political solidarity between the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement in Northeast China and the Soviet Union. He made great efforts to arrange the joint conference of the North Manchuria Provincial Party Committee and the Jidong Provincial Party Committee held at the beginning of the 1940s, as well as the meeting with Soviet authorities convened later.

In the days of the LAF, he had been chief of the intelligence section of the political department and had also taught politics to officers.

When he was at the training base in the Far East region, Feng ate his heart out because he did not know whether his wife and children, from whom he had parted a long time before, were alive or dead. Sometimes when he could not bring himself to sleep or when he was gloomy at the thought of them, his comrades said that they must be dead in all probability, and advised him to many another woman and settle down. Feng, however, flatly refused to do so even if he had to live as a widower all his life. His noble and upright qualities as a revolutionary and human being were also expressed in the fact that he steadfastly remained faithful to and loved his wife, though there was little hope of their reunion.

I still have a picture in my mind of Feng humming a forlorn Chinese love song as he took a stroll one evening.

It is said that, following China's liberation, Feng had a reunion with his wife whom he had longed for so earnestly, and lived together happily once more.

Like Zhou Bao-zhong, he always extolled the heroic struggle of the Korean people and the KPRA with feelings of deep respect and gratitude.

When he was chairman of the Songjiang provincial people’s government, he wrote a book titled, Brief History of the 14-Year Struggle of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army. Following is an extract from this book: "The predecessor of the 2nd Corps of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army was the east Manchuria guerrilla army. The East Manchuria Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army was originally divided into four anti-Japanese guerrilla battalions-the Yanji, Wangqing, Helong and Hunchun guerrilla battalions. The majority of the population in the Jiandao area were Koreans. Hence, Koreans constituted the cpre of the east Manchuria guerrilla army.

"Under the command of General Kim IL Sung, a prominent national hero of Korea, this army advanced to Antu, Linjiang, Changbai and the Amnok River, and met Yang Jing-yu, commander of the 1st Corps of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army, a fraternal army.

"Moreover, under the leadership of General Kim 11 Sung, they organized the Korean army for the restoration of the fatherland. They crossed the Amnok River and advanced deep into the northern area of Korea on a number of occasions to conduct operations. There they fought several bloody battles against the Japanese imperialist aggressors and secretly formed the Korean people's underground organizations of the ARF."After liberation, all the Korean people, young and old, men and women, unanimously welcomed General Kim IL Sung, enthusiastically shouting, 'Long live the national hero General Kim IL Sung!'"

Feng, after serving as chairman of the Songjiang provincial people's government, was consecutively head of the Beijing Library and Vice-Minister of Irrigation and Electricity in later years. When he worked as vice-minister, he frequently visited our country to discuss the problem of the common use of a power station by Korea and China.

When Feng came to our country in September 1958 as head of a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Irrigation and Electricity, I met him at the Suphung Power Station. I still remember how, following our inspection of the facilities of the power station, we climbed the dam and, looking down upon the beautiful scenery of Lake Suphung, discussed the matter of jointly building a new power station on the Amnok and increasing cooperation between the two countries in the field of the generation of hydroelectric power.

Feng is said to have died in prison in the spring of 1968, after being persecuted on a false charge of being a Rightist during the "cultural revolution".

Xue Wen, Feng Zhong-yun's wife, visited our country in company with her children on my 80th birthday. Feng had longed for her so earnestly when he was at the training base in the Far East region.

Xue Wen had worked at the Manchurian Provincial Party Committee during the anti-Japanese war. She was of short stature and looked sincere.

According to Xue Wen, Feng Zhong-yun was rehabilitated at the end of 1977, nearly ten years after he had died in prison, and was buried at the revolutionary martyrs cemetery on Mt. Babao on the outskirts of Beijing.

When Feng's family threw themselves into my outstretched arms, with tears in their eyes, I also felt a lump in my throat, remembering the bygone days.

Feng's bereaved family visited our country on a number of occasions in later years, too. One year, during her stay in Pyongyang, Feng Yi-luo, Feng Zhong-yun's eldest daughter, was about to celebrate her 60th birthday there. Comrade Kim Jong IL sent her a table as a present on that occasion.

The militant friendship and intimacy established between Feng Zhong-yun and me are continued by our next generation.

Zhang Shou-jian, who was active as a political worker in the days of the IAF, was also a Chinese comrade-in-arms

with whom I was on intimate terms. When he was in northern Manchuria, Zhang was commander of the 3rd Route Army. He was also called Li Zhao-lin. He was a close friend of Feng Zhong-yun, and he was also on familiar terms with Kim Chaek.
What was characteristic of his personality was modesty and devotion. Probably because of this we became friends at our very first meeting. I became very attached to him, for he gave prominence to his comrades when something good was achieved, and was the first to step forward whenever there was something difficult to be done.
The dossiers on the commanding officers of the guerrilla unit kept at the Comintern evaluated Zhang Shou-jian as an excellent organizer and as a brave, energetic and creative leader of the guerrilla army.
During the anti-Japanese war the soldiers of the north Manchuria guerrilla army frequently sang The Bivouacking Song, which he wrote.
After the victory in the anti-Japanese war, Zhang Shoujian energetically shouldered heavy responsibilities as the secretary of the Songjiang district committee of the CPC and vice-chairman of Songjiang Province before he was assassinated by Kuomintang agents in Harbin.
Thou Bao-zhong, Zhang Shou-jian and Feng Zhong-yun have all passed away.
In April 1992 my old comrades-in-arms from the days of the IAF visited me and congratulated me on my 80th birthday. Among them were Chen Lei, his wife Ri Min, and Ri Jae Dok.
I treated them as honoured guests.
Chen Lei had worked as the chief of the propaganda section, and chief of the political department of the 3rd Regiment, of the 6th Corps of the NAJAA. In the days of the IAF he had been a platoon leader. After liberation he was secretary of the Heilongjiang provincial committee of the CPC and governor of Heilongjiang Province. It was when he was chief of the advisory committee of the Heilongjiang provincial Party committee that he visited our country leading a friendship delegation from Heilongjiang.
On my 80th birthday Chen Lei made me a present of a scroll bearing the words, Long Life and Good Health to Comrade Kim IL Sung on His 80th Birthday. On the scroll he wrote that I had led the arduous struggles against the Japanese and US imperialists to victory and built a country of bliss for the people on our land of 3,000 ri and wished me a long life along with Koryo. Chen was an accomplished calligrapher.
Ri Min presented me with a collection of 100 revolutionary songs which had been sung during the anti-Japanese war. In the days of the IAF she had worked as a broadcaster.
The peoples and revolutionaries of Korea and China have lived as friendly neighbours on either side of the Tuman and Amnok Rivers, and have fought shoulder to shoulder, sharing weal and woe for over half a century since the days of the great war against the Japanese. This valuable tradition of struggle and fraternal friendship will continue in full blossom from generation to generation.
In July Juche 83 (1994) the report of the sudden demise of the great leader Comrade Kim IL Sung spread all over the world. The news, which came like a bolt from the blue, was a devastating shock and brought untold grief to people all over the world. Chen Lei and Ri Min irmuediately left Harbin by car to pay their last respects to him;
When Comrade Kim Jong IL heard, from the Korean consulate general in Shenyang, that Chen Lei and his wife were coming to Korea by land, he personally took measures to receive them on the Korean side of the Amnokgang Bridge and guide them to Pyongyang. When the car provided by the North Phyongan Provincial Party Committee reached Sinanju carrying the couple who had crossed the Amnok, another car, sent by the respected General Kim Jong Il, was waiting for them there.
After leaving Harbin, the couple had covered 1,000 kilometres in two days, but they could not bring themselves to sleep, recollecting the benevolent image of Comrade Kim Ii Sung which was deeply imprinted in their minds from the days of the anti-Japanese war. When they reached where the departed was lying, it was 12 pm. Without even taking the time to smooth the wrinkles from their travel-stalned clothes, they hurried to him and sald, shedding hot tears, “Respected Comrade President, Chen Lei and Ri Min, your comrades-in arms, have come.
The respected General Kim Jong IL met Chen Lei and his wife on the platform of the meeting in memory of Comrade Kim Il Sung.Thou Wei, Zhou Bao-zhong's daughter, regarded her failure to see Comrade Kim Ii Sung as her lifelong regret.. In October Juche 84 (1995) she presented a letter and a picture album she herself had edited, to Comrade Kim Jong IL. That album included a large number of photographs relating to Thou Bao-zhong's life as well as many photographs showing Comrade Kim IL Sung and Kim Jong Suk, heroine of the anti-Japanese struggle.
Zhou Wei' s wish to visit Korea was fulfilled in the summer of Juche 85 (1996). She came to Pyongyang in great haste with her mind filled with recollections of Comrade Kim IL Sung, who had been dear to her since her childhood days at the training base in the Far East region. The first thing she did after she arrived was to visit the Kumsusan Memorial Palace.
"President Kim IL Sung, Zhou Wei has come. Can't you open your eyes just once and look at me?" she muttered to herself and shed sorrowful tears. She pledged to promote the friendship between Korea and China succeeding to the work of her father and mother.

From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution"

Upholding the Torch of Ranam

The Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex

The Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex in North Hamgyong Province is playing an important role in socialist construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

After the country's liberation (August 1945), the complex was built on the site where a shabby ironworks had formerly stood. It has become a modem machinery-producing center with a large-scale mother factory and several other factories under its control.

The complex is widely known as an efficient enterprise which can manufacture reliably the sophisticated machines and equipment needed for the country's development.

Proud traces are to be found in the history of the complex: it succeeded in producing up-to-date and comprehensive coal mining equipment which had previously only been seen in countries with a long history of machine-building. Upholding the torch of the June 1985 machinetool-begets-machinetool

drive, it manufactured a large number of highly efficient machine tools and sent them to major factories and enterprises across the country.

In the 1990s, when the revolution had to undergo harsh trials, the mettle of the working class was fully displayed at the complex.

During the "Arduous March", the situation at the complex reached its nadir.

Electricity was in desperately short supply. The storehouses for materials were empty. The shortage of food required urgent solution. In addition, the task of multiplying two factories by its own efforts and technique fell on the complex. When the 650-ton crank press for a new factory was

(Continued from Page 14)

teachers had made to that end. The school has been channelling its effort into diversifying . teaching methods. When each new school term begins, students are gathered in front of the notice board of the school's Heroes to listen to accounts of what the 12 had done. They visit its educational garden to see the trees the Heroes planted during their days at the school.

produced, a thousands of spare parts were needed. Workers and technicians of the winch shop collected iron plates of various sizes and processed spare parts with materials obtained after exploring the complex's reserves. When machine-tool operators who had been forced to skip meals fell while working, managers took their places, and when they were exhausted, members of their family took their place.

To meet the shortage of electricity, the complex introduced the method of concentrated processing of spare parts, and a great gear was processed within 10 days instead of the normal 30, by strengthening their creative cooperation.

Workers and technicians at the complex turned out as one to fulfill the task of manufacturing ultra-modem equipment which only a few countries in the world can produce, in the spirit of self-reliance.

The steel casting shop adopted a bold and novel method of increasing the capacity of the electric furnace used in the melting process. In the field of processing, various effective jigs were introduced enabling precision of spare parts to be manufactured, instead of relying on the modem machine tools usually required for the manufacture of equipment.

In the period of the “Arduous March”, the workers of the complex were never daunted, nor did they ask for any help from the state.

They themselves made the crucial breakthroughs, giving rise to the technical renovation of the complex.

At the initial stage of the "Arduous March”, coal was in short supply. The enterprise buckled down to modifying furnaces instead of running about trying to find the

In the course of this education, many of the school's pupils make up their minds to come back after achieving great feats for the country and its people, just like the Heroes, and voluntarily go to posts to defend the country or the difficult and labour-intensive fields of socialist construction.

Back in the corridor, my attention was attracted by a poster on the wall. "Who will become the 13th Hero?" it

thousands of tons of coal needed annually. Consequently, the amount of coal required was cut by forty per cent. When the supply of high-caloric coal from the western part of Korea dwindled, a new process of pulverization was introduced so that coal from northern mines could be used. When it ran out, waste tar, a substitute for oil, was used and the furnaces were reconstructed, ensuring continuous production.

The workers came out the behests of President Kim Ii Sung and the plans of the Party with a firm determination in the most difficult period, a time when the DPRK was undergoing immense hardship, thus displaying the mettle of the country's heroic working class.

Upon his return to Korea after his historic and successful visit to the Russian Federation in August last year, leader Kim Jong IL expressed great satisfaction at the workers' solution of difficult technical problems on their own through close, creative cooperation and a mass technical innovation drive. He also noted the satisfactory production of a vital piece of ordered equipment in less than one year, expressing appreciation for their achievements.

Recently, he again expressed his satisfaction at the noteworthy successes North Hamgyong Province had made in its response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea while inspecting economic development work in the area. He gave the complex the task of upholding a torch for the new century.

Encouraged by his deep trust, the workers of the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex are giving their all to perform new, greater feats in the vanguard of the revolutionary advance in the new century.

asked. The poster introduced five winners of Kim IL Sung Children Honour Prize, the achievements made by the school and admirable deeds done by its students.

None of them would make any concessions in trying to become Heroes, I thought. I felt great pride thinking that we have such students, young people who will become the masters of our country, in the future.

Yun Yong Gum

Workershop making coal cutters

Accelerating assemblage of machines.

Technical consultation meeting on the field.

Workers show resolution to fulfil the task of producing coal-mining machines.

Quotes from Kim Jong IL

"The question of how to approach military affairs is a vital issue, decisive to the destiny of the country and the nation. Therefore, from olden times it has been said that the greatest state affair is that of national defence."

"Only those who experienced thoroughly how precious the homeland is can dedicate their youthful life to it without hesitation."

AN EPISODE

Affection Between Leader and His People

August 19 last year was an emotional day for the workers of the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex:

Leader Kim Jong IL visited them on his return home from his more than 20-day visit to Russia, ignoring his fatigue from the more than 20,000km-long journey. Management and workforce at the complex were overwhelmed with excitement and joy at his visit to their workplace. The twenty previous days had been a period of constant longing for his return. During the leader's time in Russia they had worked tirelessly in order to glorify his return home.

"How have you been all this while?" the leader said, kindly greeting them as he alighted from his car, before the senior officials could do on behalf of the management and workers at the complex.

Kim Jong IL headed straight for the production sites to meet the workers. He first stopped at the steel casting workshop and acquainted himself deeply with its achievements. Informed that the complex had fulfilled the task of producing large-sized machines he had given to it in August the previous year and that it is overfulfilling its monthly targets in the national economic plan, the leader expressed his appreciation for its achievements and said with satisfaction that the machines it produced were magnificent. He continued to closely watch the smelters' work before entering the examination room, where he learned about the capacity of the equipment and the examination process, watching the way the technicians were working. He was then told of the fact that one of them, though past the age of sixty, worked ceaselessly, making technical innovations, and with satisfaction thanked him for his hard work and achievements.

Kim Jong IL then entered the medium an d small-sized machine processing workshops and inspected the rows of machines operating at full capacity before turning his attention to the large-sized products one by one, successively expressing his satisfaction. He asked if there were any required processes missing and gave instructions to supply the necessary equipment as soon as possible if any. He went on to teach detailed ways and means to modernize the equipment and raise production capacity significantly, in line with the requirements of the new century.

The leader also praised the employees of the complex for creating another two big machine factories and fulfilling their monthly targets without fail during the tough times of the "Arduous March" and encouraged them to continue their fine work. He then had a photograph taken with labour innovators.

The workers were moved when the leader, though pressed for time, went so far as to inspect the products exhibition and see a performance given by the motivation troupe of the complex.

On arrival at the small venue for the performance, the leader found an armchair set out for him, behind which more than ten normal chairs were placed. He went up to the armchair to sit, and suddenly said, "Take away this chair."

The accompanying managers and officials did not understand him and were at a loss to know what to do until he told them to bring another chair like the others.

He sat on the same type of chair as the managers' and looked around to tell them to come and sit side by side with him, to their great honour.

He also praised the performers for their good performance and expressed his satisfaction at the fact that the workers work and live in a wonderfully optimistic manner with confidence of sure victory.

When it was time for the leader to leave, the workers of the complex shed tears, reluctant to part with him. He, too, seemed reluctant to part with them and stood for a long while, acknowledging their cheers before finally leaving for the next stop on his itinerary.

EXPLANATION OF THE JUCHE IDEA (5)

Human History Is the History of People's Struggle for Independence

In his book "On the Juche Idea", leader Kim Jong IL pointed out: "The history of human society is the history of the struggle of the popular masses to defend and realize independence."

In this socio-historical principle we can get correct answers to the following questions: What is the fundamental purpose of the social movement? In other words, for what reason is the social movement launched? What is the basic orientation for the development of history? And how is it realized in the course of social development?

It can be said that this principle is closely connected with and comes from the principle that the working masses are the subject of history.

The social movement is the movement of the popular masses, its motive force, and the popular masses launch the social movement to attain a definite objective and push it forward. There can be no social movement which is conducted without any objective.

Independence is the life and soul of man, and defending independence and striving to live and develop in an independent manner is his instinct. For what purpose do the popular masses launch the social movement themselves? The answer is crystal clear. The social movement is aimed at realizing their independence. In other words, it is aimed at enjoying an independent life. The basic object of the social movement lies in defending and realizing the independence of the popular masses, and society is developing in the direction of realizing their independence.

The social movement, a struggle of the popular masses to develop history, is conducted in various forms. However, it boils down to three kinds of transformation work—the transformation of nature, society and man.The reason is that man can lead an independent life only when he is freed from the fetters of society and nature, of outdated ideas and culture. This can be realized through the three kinds of transformation work the transformation of society, nature and man.

The struggle to reshape nature is none other than the struggle to provide material conditions for the popular masses to enjoy an independent life, freed from the fetters of nature. The struggle for social reform is a struggle to provide the socio-political conditions for the popular masses to lead an independent life, freed from class and national subjugation. The struggle to re-educate people is a struggle to provide socio-cultural conditions for the popular masses to enjoy an independent life, liberated from the shackles of outdated ideas and culture.

However, this does not mean that the three kinds of transformation work are conducted similarly in any society and under any historical circumstances. In the exploiter society, social reform comes to the fore in the struggle to realize independence. Getting rid of social bondage and realizing independence socially and politically is the most urgent and important problem for man, a social being.

The solution of this problem is the key to the emancipation of man from the fetters of nature and the attainment of his social and cultural development.

Accordingly, the history of human society ever since its division into hostile classes has, above all, been a history of social revolution to realize social and political independence for the popular masses. Through social revolutions, the destiny of the masses has been carved out and society has developed.

Owing to slave revolts, which were, so to speak, the first struggle in history of the exploited working masses for independence, slave society was replaced by feudal society, and owing to the peasant struggle against feudalism in the Middle Ages, feudal society collapsed and capitalist society was built. It is due to the struggle of the broad working masses, including the working class, that the chains of capital have been broken and socialist society, where the popular masses are master, has been established. Even after the establishment of the socialist system and the realization of the social and political independence of the popular masses, the matter of transforming nature and man remains to be solved.

With the establishment of the socialist system, the social and political independence of the popular masses is realized, but they cannot free themselves from the fetters of nature and from the shackles of outdated ideas and culture. This is the basic factor preventing the popular masses from enjoying an independent life. Therefore, the struggle for realizing independence is continued in socialist society, too, and its important historical task is to transform nature and man.

Socialist society fully ensures all conditions for reshaping nature and re-educating people. That is why the transformation of nature and man comes to the fore in socialist society, and this is realized in an all-round way through the three revolutions; ideological, technical and cultural.

The ideological revolution is aimed at completely eradicating all outmoded ideas from the minds of people and enabling all of them to acquire the lofty ideological and moral qualities the masters of the ideal society should possess. The technical revolution is designed to distribute all the goods necessary for the people's living according to need by highly developing the productive forces, emancipate people from all sorts of labour-consuming work and even eliminate the distinction between mental and physical labour. The cultural revolution is aimed at giving the people a great stock of knowledge on nature and society and providing them with a true, cultured life.

It is an undeniable truth that the history of mankind is that of the struggle to defend the independence of the popular masses. The advance of history is by no means smooth, but it will move in the direction of realizing independence for the popular masses.

Noble Intention of an Official

The era of army-centred politics has brought about a major change on the River Rimjin, which flows into the West Sea of Korea. A magnificent power station, similar to a large hydroelectric power station, has been built in the lower reaches of the river. As a result, the deafening sound of water falling down the dam is shaking the riverside like a giant waterfall, and the buzzing sound of electric generators busily at work can be heard.

The Rimjingang Power Station No.1 is associated with the sincere effort, feats of labour and noble intention of an official, along with the heroism shown by the men of the Korean People's Army. The official in question is the chief of the power station, Kim Chang Ok.

One winter day in Juche 88 (1999), Kim was assigned the position of construction manager for the power station project. Until then he had been working as the commanding officer of artillery at his military unit. Therefore, it was first time that he had ever taken charge of a construction project such as the building of a power station. However, no sooner had Kim been given the task than he hurried to the construction site, leading the soldiers.

A cutting wind was sweeping over the snow-covered riverside. From long ago, the river has been called the River Nal, (raging river), as it was difficult to harness its power. In the rainy season the river swelled by seven to eight metres. Now they had to build a power station by damming the river.The construction project was difficult from the outset. The men carried their knapsacks alone on their shoulders, for they had no machinery or equipment to speak of at that stage.

The arduous foundation work was done by jumping into the cold water in mid-winter. Also difficult was the coffer-dam project they carried out in the rainy season, fighting against the water surging over the banks.

The biggest test came when the soldiers got started on the construction of the dam in two sections, which was regarded as the most difficult stage of the project. As it was undertaken in the rainy season, a watertight structure was built round the area and pumps were installed so that the water could be pumped out to allow building work to be done inside it. But water flowed in steadily. Faced with this situation, some people thought that there was no other way but to wait until the volume of water declined.

However, insisting that there was a way to solve this problem, Kim said, "We must stop the water with fire! What is the fire I mentioned? It is none other than the revolutionary spirit of soldiers the Supreme Commander has implanted in our minds, the revolutionary spirit which is the blood boiling in our hearts and which is our life and soul!" Hearing his words, those who had wavered strained every sinew. The soldiers' firm resolve to carry out the orders of the Supreme Commander unconditionally, even if their bodies turn into breakwater or a dam, produced the Herculean strength required.

A new technique enabling the builders to push ahead with construction work while pumping out water was invented. In addition, innovative methods allowed the task of concrete-tamping, which had previously required a week, to be carried out in only one day.

At last the construction of the two sections of the dam was completed, and the day drew near when electricity would be generated. With the completion of the power station approaching, Kim with a 40-year-long record of military service, was discharged from the army. He found himself under pressure to return to his native town. He had already known that he would be discharged from military service one day. But when the day came, he felt lonely.

Looking back upon the days gone by when he had the honour of being conferred high state decorations many times, he thought whether he would be able to return to his native town, full of pride. He resolved not to leave the construction site until the day the power station was completed.

The following day he wore plain work clothes, instead of the military uniform with the collar badge of senior colonel. From that day forth, he worked voluntarily and helped the builders in their work, behaving as though he were an adviser. Thanks to his and the soldiers' devoted efforts, the power station was completed, and he was appointed the chief of the power station.

On May 7 last year, leader Kim Jong IL visited the Rimjingang Power Station No.1. Upon learning that Kim Chang Ok had been discharged from military service while taking charge of the construction of the power station, and was now the chief of the power station, Kim Jong IL expressed the conviction that Kim Chang Ok would creditably manage and operate the power station. The leader said, in a tone full of benevolent affection, that such a person is a true hero. As he left the power station after giving advice and gnidance, Kim Jong IL encouraged those present, saying, "I want all of you to spare no effort in your work." At that moment, Kim Chang Ok made a military salute, raising his hand vigorously. The military salute made by Kim, dressed in civilian attire, was a manifestation of his pledge to do more work, always displaying the revolutionary spirit of soldiers, although he no longer wore the military uniform. Settling down to work at power station and dedicating his life to it is Kim's desire.

Modern houses are built at every rural community of the county

Jaeryong County, located in the eastern part of South Hwanghae Province, DPRK, had been behind time in the economy and culture until its recent decisive upgrading.

Local people, when asked about the secret of the county's new-found success, unanimously reply, "Our experience shows that we can do anything we decide to do as long as we believe in our own strength."

Newly Aligned Fields

The county, one of granaries in the DPRK, strove to implement the Workers' Party of Korea's land-alignment policy, completing ahead of schedule the first-stage projects in Jaechon, Sinhanpho, Pukji, Raerim and other rural areas in the county: a large number of small patches of fields have been turned into standardized fields, and more land has been put under cultivation.

Chairwoman Kim Chun Nyo of the county cooperative farm management committee said that if the second-stage projects are completed this year, all the fields will resound with the sound of farm machines at work by next spring.

Irrigation Network Expanded

The county has long endeavoured to build a
ble to protect more than 3,000 hectares of farmland, more than 2,000 houses and hundreds of public buildings from flood damage.

In addition, existing banks were repaired and a new 17km-long bank was laid along the River Jaeryong, improving the appearance of the county and preventing flooding.

Village as Good as a Town

A Jaechon Cooperative Farm village now features high-quality houses and cultural welfare facilities at the foot of a hill which is wooded with various fruit trees. This picturesque scene would

J**angsusan Recreation Ground**

Jaeryonggang Power Station in the local

development

have been inconceivable without the local farm workers' strenuous efforts.

The villagers had lived, using houses in bad condition until the ri officials and farm workers recently built new houses by their concerted efforts. They made tiles and blocks of earth and clay mixed with soft stones available locally. In less than a year, 55 one-storey houses appeared, each for one family, which will not be inferior to the houses of the distant future. The new houses are now occupied by workteam No.5 of the farm.

In July last year, leader Kim Jong IL gave on-the-spot guidance in the area and was greatly satisfied that the village had been turned into model socialist one.

Other farm districts, as well as the town area, have been busy with improvement work, building different types of modern houses which blend well with the topographical features of the area. A good road has also been laid in the county, further improving the infrastructure.

Power Stations Prove Their Worth

The county also built power stations of different sizes and capacities everywhere there are good irrigation network.

In recent years work has been vigorously conducted to further improve and reinforce the

waterway system.

The 40km-long bank revetment on Namuri Plain is part of this project.

The county, by its own effort, has carried out the embankment of 203,000 cubic metres of earth and laid dozens of kilometres of road alongside. This has made it possi

water resources, including the Jaeryong River.

One of them is the Jaeryonggang Power Station, built on the upper part of the river. This power station is designed to use a low head of water.

The decision to build the power station was taken several years ago. A minor power station construction team organized by the county took responsibility for both its design and construction. Thanks to their efforts, a power station capable of generating several hundred kilowatts of electricity was completed in seven months, followed by the construction of similar power stations in more than ten other places, including Chongchon-ri. The electricity they produce is used for residential lighting and the operation of local factories.

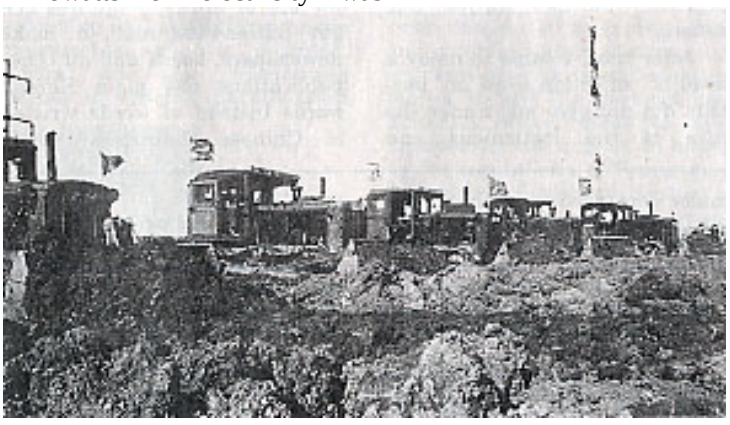
Improving Diets

Meanwhile, the county has pushed ahead with the expansion of fish farming.

More than 100 fish farms, including a five-hectare fish farm at Raerim-ri, have been built since the campaign began in Juche 86 (1997). The farms supply more than ten kinds of fish, including catfish and carp, to local residents.

Strenuous efforts are also being made to breed grass-eating farm animals.

As part of the project, 1,000 hectares of pastures have been newly created. A goat farm is



Is of significant importance **The second-stage land rezoning has begun**

Under Her Loving Care

I am often reminded vividly of the benevolent appearance of Kim Jong Suk, an anti-Japanese woman hero, who took me under her wing in the liberated homeland and enabled me to lead a genuine life.

She cared for me as if I were her own flesh and blood, with a smile on her face at all times. I will always remember that smiling face, as bright as sunshine and her gentle voice.

Born the daughter of a poor peasant, I had been forced to hoe the fields from an early age. Kim Jong Suk taught me about the world and showed me how to work.

It was on November 2, Juche 36 (1947) that I met Kim Jong Suk for the first time.

As I was assigned to work under her guidance, I went to the place where she was. She herself came out to meet me on arrival and, clasping my hand, asked my name, age and hometown. She then ushered me into her room, saying, ‘Let us work together from now on, just like sisters. “

After that, I came to enjoy a level of affection even my parents did not give me, under the care of the meticulous and benevolent "mother".

Whenever she found time to spare, she called me to her side and listened to the story of my past life and told me about social conditions in plain language.

One summer day in Juche 37 (1948) I was thumbing through the pages of a monthly magazine, but closed it halfway, as there were lots of political terms and words of Chinese origin, which were difficult for me to understand. Seeing this, Kim Jong Suk came up to me and asked me why I had stopped reading..

After listening to my explanation, she smiled at me and began to interpret the Chinese expressions one by one, saying, "Let us study together."

As we sat together Kim Jong Suk was lost in thought for a while.

I later learned that she informed General Kim IL Sung that evening of my difficulty, so that he would take steps to gradually decrease the frequency of the use of words of Chinese origin nationwide and to make newspapers, books and all other publications use plain Korean words instead of words written in Chinese characters, which were difficult to understand.

She used to say, "If we are to support General Kim IL Sung we should have knowledge. If we are illiterate, we will be entirely ignorant of the world. So we must study."

She saw to it that I was enrolled at Kim Il Sung University.

The daughter of a peasant, I had been destined to remain uneducated my whole life, working the barren land. Yet I became a university student. I felt as if I were dreaming.

This is how I began to blossom. I developed into a full-fledged official after graduation from university, and can sincerely say I have led a worthwhile life.

Kim Jong Suk was a paragon of love, noble obligation and humanity.

She departed from us long ago, but the Korean people are now working harder than ever to make their socialist country more powerful and prosperous, always remembering the affection she bestowed upon them.

Choc Jong Ok
Haeun-dong No.1,
Phyongchon District,
Pyongyang

under construction in the Chonma area, and plans are being made to create a new goat milk processing base.

Mt. Jangsu Turned Into a Public Recreation Area

Mt. Jangsu, in the southern part of the county, is a typical quartz mountain, with deep valleys and beautiful scenery. It has long been known as the "Hwang hae Kumgang”.

Each of the twelve bends of the mountain has its own unique features, including a linn, a sonnyo (fairy) pond, and animal sculptures 22 in all, which were created last year when the mountain was newly transformed into a recreation area. A farm workers' rest house was also built there, and the newly-laid tourist road, stretching dozens of kilometres, provides visitors with easy access to the mountain. As a result, people from across the country, as well as farm workers and other residents of the county, frequent Mt. Jangsu for relaxation.

Kang Nam Sik, one of the county's senior officials, said, "We still have more to do. We will work harder to turn our county into a richer and more beautiful place, a place good to

live in."

"Arirang" to Be Performed in Spring

April in Korea is a beautiful season when it becomes more spring-like everywhere and all kinds of flowers come into bloom.

This spring many Korean art troupes and the mass gymnastic display creative group are preparing a large-scale mass gymnastic and artistic performance, called “Arirang”, by pooling their strength and wisdom.

The folk song “Arirang” was created long ago and is still much in vogue with the Korean people.

It began to be sung widely by people across the country several hundred years ago.

Arirang, ani rang, arariyo
You are crossing the pass of arirang rang.
As you go, leaving me behind
You will be footsore before you walk ten ri.

The folk song is based on a legend woven around the love between the young man Ri Rang and the girl Song Pu, and their separation and reunion. Later, it was passed from generation to generation. In this process "Arirang”, differing much in lyrics and style, began to be created and became popular in different regions.

The song "Arirang" contains joy and sorrow. It also features a bright and merry tune as well as a tune which is fascinatingly followed by the ensuing one giving rise to a plaintive feeling.

The mass gymnastic and artistic performance, "Arirang”," derives its seed from the tunes of the centuries-old folk songs of which different versions exist even today. The work combines exquisite pieces of Korean music, folk dance and acrobatic pieces, rhythmic gymnastics, and so on, and uses a variety of modern stage settings and lighting effects. It consists of four scenes, a prologue and a finale. They all consist of various vivid scenes related to our daily life woven together with the legend which grew up around “Arirang”. The show enables spectators to have a clear understanding of the sadness and joy of the Korean nation. It is the past, the present and the future of Korea reflected in the melody and the lyrics of “Arirang”, and even touches on the prevailing state of society and customs of the Korean nation.

The "Arirang" show is composed of historical pieces of Korean music which are filled with the spirit of our nation. Beautiful and elegant dance pieces tinged with deep national colouring and skillful gymnastic movements are also included. There are also fascinating scenes in which a pure-hearted man and woman, based on legendary figures, descend from heaven by riding on a cloud, and a charming view of the land of Korea is unfolded, a view as beautiful as a golden tapestry.

Creators of the mass gymnastic and artistic performance “ Arirang”.

And that is not all. The audience can see enrapturing scenes of great complexity¡ª the everchanging, wonderful backgrounds surpassing all human imagination, wide-screen pictures and laser illumination.

More than 100,000 people in all are taking part in the creation of this work, including international and national competition prize winners and many other famous artists, talented students and children.

The performance will be given in the period between the end of April and the end of June. The venue for the performance is the May Day Stadium, with a seating capacity of 150,000 people, on Rungna islet, Pyongyang.

A little over three months are left until the show begins.

However, a huge number of applications are now pouring in from abroad. At first the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel and the Yanggakdo International Hotel had been designated as places offering accommodation to those foreigners who want to come to Korea to see the performance. Later, it was decided to offer this service not only at all hotels in the capital city of Pyongyang, but also at hotels in provincial towns, as the number of applicants was markedly beyond expectations.

The creators of the work are now making every possible effort to ensure it will be perfect, so that it will meet the expectations of all the Korean people, the world progressives who aspire for independence, peace, and friendship, and the overseas Koreans.

Doctor of Hope

In the Sosong District People's Hospital in Pyongyang there is a ward specializing in the treatment of idiopathic gangrene, known worldwide as a malignant disease hard to cure.

Yet in this ward, the patients are now being given effective medical treatment.

Mun Hyon Chang, a 41-year-old farmer from Songjon-ri, Sinyang County, South Phyongan Province, said, "When I heard the news that this hospital was curing patients of idiopathic gangrene, I could hardly believe it at first.

"I was at the third stage of gangrene, and my big and little toes had turned black due to the decay of body tissue. I visited every possible hospital in my search for treatment, and I tried all curative methods known to the general public, but to no avail. Yet a week after I began to receive treatment at this hospital, my illness began to take a favourable turn. It's twenty days since I came here, and I am now well enough to leave, as the decay of body tissue has stopped completely. You could call it a miracle."

In the past, victims of this disease suffered untold mental anguish, for they were in great pain and, moreover, their future looked bleak. But now the doctor gives them the joy of rebirth. So who is this doctor? He is Rim Song Ryop, the man in charge of this ward. Rim had been working as a surgeon since Juche 49 (1960). Until recently, he was the vice-director of technical affairs at the hospital. Now 65, he has become a specialist in idiopathic gangrene in the twilight of his career. There is an unusual reason behind this.

Thirty years ago Rim was in charge of the treatment of idiopatic gangrene patients. At that time he made every effort to cure his patients, but he failed to save three of them.

That failure gave him a great shock. He became haunted by the thought of idiopathic gangrene, and this led him to make a firm resolve to find a cure for the disease at any cost.

Busy as he was with his work, he found time to visit the Grand People's Study House and relevant sectors to find the data needed in his research. He spent hours reading medical books to increase his knowledge.

Through this painstaking process, Rim found some clues. He made repeated experiments on animals to confirm a series of successes gained in research.

It was not an easy task for Rim, who specialized in surgery, to develop an injection to be shot into bone. But he eventually succeeded in the manufacture of a variety of composite injections to be used to thin blood, improving its flow and banishing pain, on the basis of analysis of modern and traditional Korean medicine methods.

Doctor Rim Song Ryop (second right) treating a case.

Although Rim was successful in many of the experiments on animals, applying the results to the treatment of patients posed new problems.

He was ignorant of the extent to which the medicine he had developed would cause pain to the patients, nor could he be sure that it would produce no harmful aftereffects. Deciding which patients should be the first to be given treatment with this medicine was a tough choice to make.

After having several sleepless nights, he decided to choose his children to test the treatment.

His wife, a physician, was struck dumb with astonishment at first, but eventually agreed with him, as she was well aware of the difficulties her husband faced and had confidence in him.

Thanks to his devoted efforts, admirable results have been achieved in the treatment of idiopathic gangrene, a terrible disease which had long tormented man.

Rim has since treated many patients. Those in the first and second stages of idiopathic gangrene have been cured almost completely, and they are now leading active, healthy lives.

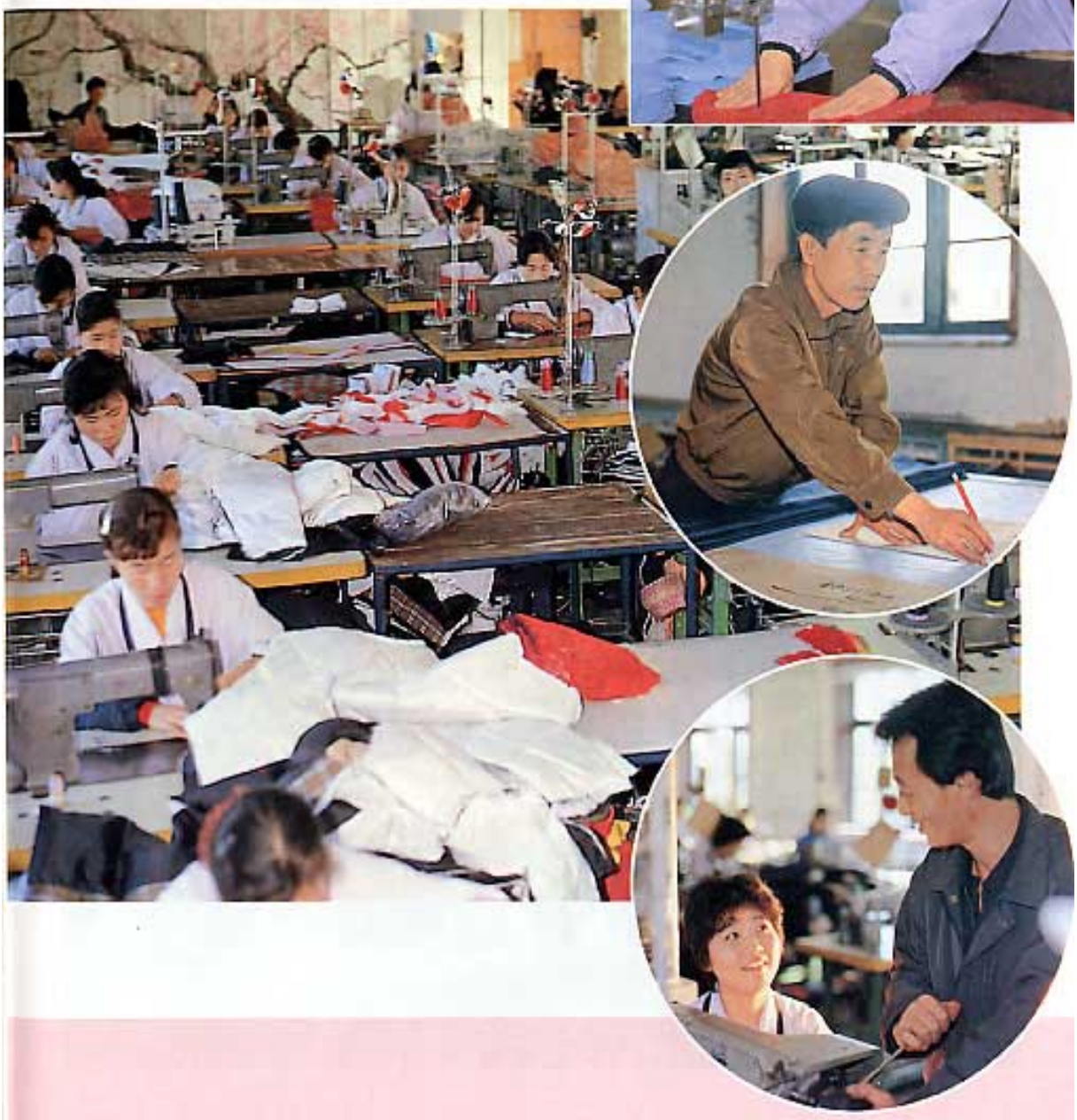
Patients whose finger or toe tissue had begun to die saw the affected parts alone fall off after they were given treatment, thus removing the need to amputate their arms or legs.

When I congratulated him upon his successful treatment of gangrenous patients, Rim said, "There is much still to be done. I think that only those who have substantial ability and warm humanity, and who are well aware of the duty they should discharge for their country and people, will become the conquerors of the unknown world."

Yun Yong Gum

Increased Production of Clothing

– Sariwon Exported Clothing Factory –



The Sariwon Exported Clothing Factory produces different kinds of clothing like jumpers, padded coats and training clothes. Technical innovation devices the factory introduces into production actively are an effective way to fulfil yearly tasks. The workers are making of foreful New Year stride in the work to build a rich and strong country, full of confidence and optimism.

Pyongyang's Inspirational Cleaners

CLEANERS Ri Jong Son, Jon Hyon Pok, Yu Kyong Suk and Paek Chang Suk at the Central District Building Management Company are among those who dedicate their lives to the work to create a brighter and tidier Pyongyang.

In their girlhoods full of dreams and laughter, they became cleaners of their own accord, an occupation few would choose readily.

They have since been working as cleaners for seven to ten years.

Two of the women have now married.

The Resolution I Made for Myself

One day in April last year, when the spring flowers were in full bloom, Hyon Pok unexpectedly met a friend from her school days at her workplace. The friend was a former classmate with whom she had studied while attending the Pyongyang College of Electronics and Automation.

Hyon Pok, in working clothes, with rubber boots on and a rubber hose in her hands, welcomed her friend.

Hyon Pok's friend admitted her surprise. "What's the matter? I heard a rumour about you, but I didn't believe it... I wondered: How can she do such work? But..."

"Hee hee! But what?... Surely, you wanted to say, 'But it's true,' didn't you?", said Hyon Pok.

After finishing work, Hyon Pok left together with her classmate.

Kim IL Sung Square, the Grand People's Study House, the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, a rush of crowds coming and going along the street. Spring was returning to the city.

"It's marvellous. What a magnificent view! I'm a young woman, nay a fighter battling to make this street more beautiful ! Hee hee! You don't think my expression is too exaggerated?" said Hyon Pok.

She laughed happily, and her classmate couldn't stop herself from doing the same.

"I heard you made up your mind to take up this job of your own 6hoice. Is that true?" her friend asked.

That day, Hyon Pok told her classmate for the first time why she had chosen that occupation.

The story began one day prior to her graduation from the college.

Hyon Pok called at the home of a friend. During the visit, she saw something very unusual. A woman of nearly 60 was repairing the cooking stove in her friend's home. Hyon Pok heard that the old woman, a war veteran, had been working at the building management company for more than 40 years.

Together with her friend, she gave the old woman a helping hand.

"Could you tell us why you began to do this work?" asked Hyon Pok.

In response to Hyon Pok's question, the old lady told them all the details.

"During the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953) I got hurt in the abdomen during a US air raid. After victory in the war, everyone did two or three men's work in the postwar rehabilitation and construction, but I could not find a job anywhere. This meant that I should take it easy and enjoy the benefits of social security. But how could I rest in peace at a time when the whole country was buzzing with reconstruction activity? After much thought, I learned how to repair ondol (the Korean under-floor heating system). At that time, no one thought of repairing their houses. After they went out to the reconstruction sites, I would repair ondol and put plaster on walls and ceilings, making a round of calls at their homes. As you see, I'm already past working age. My building management company asks me to retire from public service and rest, but I continue to work of my own accord. I, a girl repairer, have now turned into a granny repairer unawares. Ha, ha..."

Laughing aloud, the old lady finished her work.

Her words were full of meaning, and Hyon Pok could not forget them easily.

That evening, Hyon Pok told her father, who worked at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, about the old woman.

"Papa, I'm ashamed of myself, as I was intoxicated only with my happiness. I'm going to live like that mother...

It was the first time her father felt such great pride over his daughter. She had made such a difficult resolution for herself.

After hearing Hyon Pok's story out, her classmate looked at her, and said abruptly.

"I wonder why I was ignorant of the fact that you were so noble-minded. I really didn't know." she said sincerely.

Yu Kyong Suk, Ri Jong Son and Paek Chang Suk are girls who have come to this management company with the same clear mind as Hyon Pok.

Height of Happiness

Their workplace is not so conspicuous, but the value of life and happiness can be found there, too.

One morning several years ago, Ri Jong Son, a member of the Oesong workteam, headed for work as usual.

But to her surprise, five or six people were causing a commotion in front of their company's office.

Ri approached them. No sooner had they seen her than they rushed to her

They plan to arrange better the district under their charge

"Congratulations!" they cried.
Everybody thrust the Rodong Sinmun newspaper in front of her.
Printed inside was a full-length article titled, "Our country boasts of such young people", dealing with the four girls working at the Central District Building Management Company.
Ri expressed her gratitude to them all, her heart beating strongly after this surprising turn of events. She was then presented with a bouquet of beautiful flowers by the assembled group.
Ri received congratulations from all kinds of people that day, from morning till night.
Yu Kyong Suk and Paek Chang Suk, in the Jongro workteam, and Jon Hyon Pok, one of the Kyongrim work-team, also spent several days receiving such congratulatory greetings.
Such is the value of labour.
The young women worked hard in order to prove themselves worthy of the people's deep trust.
One day, Jong Son went to a public building to clean it. A group of mischievous children had broken some tiles while playing there. The broken tiles sat vividly before her eyes. The carelessness of the children made her heart ache. She admonished them not to behave like that again, and then removed the broken tiles.
That night, Jong Son hurried to the Taesong Ceramic Factory to get replacement tiles. After returning with a knapsack full of tiles on her back, she worked through the night to repair the, surfaces where the broken tiles had been taken off.
Yu Kyong Suk, Paek Chang Suk and Jon Hyon Pok are working with the same attitude, giving meticulous care to their workplaces.
They have walked dozens of kilo-metres at night to keep the streets clean, and upon hearing rolls of thunder in the middle of the night, they have rushed to their workplaces in a state of anxiety.
When told of these girls who were devoted to their work, unconcerned by the status of their occupation, leader Kim Jong IL expressed his thanks and sent gifts to them.
Inspired by his deep trust, the women are silently working harder than ever to make the capital city a better place to live.

Jo Pong Am, National Reunification Prize Laureate

Jo Pong Am

The name of Jo Pong Am, a south Korean patriot, is recorded in the history of the national reunification movement covering more than half a century.
"Peaceful reunification reflects the common will of the masses. It is the right reunification method for the nation. I cannot be repressed as a communist simply because such an expression is also used in the north," declared Jo to the court trying the case of the Progressive Party, cooked up by the US imperialists and the Syngman Rhee regime in Juche 47 (1958).
Jo uncompromisingly fought for national reunification with ardent patriotism and national conscience until the last moments of his life.
Over 40 years have passed since his death, but the Korean people still remember him well.
Jo was born in Kanghwa County, Kyonggi Province, and made up his mind to take back his country from the Japanese imperialists at an early age.
He studied progressive thought at university and toured various areas overseas to promote the social movement.
Jo suffered repeated failures, and was imprisoned before national liberation.
The US imperialists and reactionaries set up a partitionist government in south Korea. At the "National Assembly", Jo earnestly called for peaceful reunification. In Juche 44 (1955) he formed the Progressive Party, which called for peaceful national reunification and opposed imperialism and fascism, and became its leader.
Under the slogan of peaceful reunification, he bravely fought against the division of Korea and the fascism of the US imperialists and reactionaries. For this he was warmly supported by people from all walks of life who aspired for independence, democracy and national reunification.
Alarmed by this, the Syngman Rhee regime outlawed the Progressive Party, under the pretext that it supported the north's slogan of peaceful reunification. He and many others were arrested and jailed. They tried to break his will with brutal tortures and a false indictment of 980 pages, but he remained true to reunification and patriotism before he was sentenced to death.
In recognition of his precious life dedicated to national reunification, the DPRK government awarded him the National Reunification Prize on the 45th anniversary of national liberation (August 15, 1945).
Jo Pong Am and others who devoted themselves to national reunification are still loved and respected by the nation, despite the passage of time and the change of generations.

A Family of Intellectuals

Kim Sok Gun is a researcher at the Chemical Materials Research Institute, part of the Hamhung Branch of the Academy of Sciences. His family is renowned as a "family of scientists" or "family of intellectuals".

A Doctor Couple

Kim and his wife, Kang Suk Gi, both hold doctorates and assistant professorships. Kim gained the degree in Juche 77 (1988) and Kang in Juche 81.

They entered university during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953); Kang studied physics at Kim IL Sung University, while Kim studied abroad. In Juche 45 (1956), when they finished their university courses, they were assigned to work at the Academy of Sciences as they had wished, Kim at the Chemistry Research Institute and Kang at the Physics Research Institute. Three years after they began their worthwhile careers, they got married, swearing to be true to each other for the rest of their lives devoting themselves to the nation's development.

Over 40 years have passed, years that have borne witness to the fulfilment of those promises. Kim has achieved a great deal of success in his research while leading his institute or one of its sections. Organic chemistry has been his chosen field, particularly high polymer. He developed a new kind of plastic material of great importance and made a contribution to solving scientific and technical problems in the modernization of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex. He has established a new method of chiorella culture and is now working to industrialize the process.

A music lover with an open nature, Kim, though now 70, is still enthusiastic about his research.

Kang, a tenacious and ‘introspective woman and a lover of fiction, has dedicated her life to the development of the nation's vinalon industry, closely combining her life with vinalon. Endeavouring to ensure the normal spinning of vinalon and the improvement of its quality, she introduced the horizontal spinning technique and developed a super-intensity vinalon and a heat-retaining vinalon fibre. She is a researcher at the Vinalon Research Institute of the branch academy.

The government greatly appreciated the couple's achievements, conferring high state citations and benefits on them.

Children Are All Intellectuals

The couples have five children, all university graduates. The eldest daughter studied at the University of Sciences and is working at the Analytical Chemistry Research Institute of the Hamhung Branch. As a Master of Science, she spends her days in exhaustive research, emulating her mother. Her husband is also

a researcher, and Master of Science working at the Chemical Engineering Research Institute.

Two other daughters are also doing worthy jobs after studying at universities of education and light industry respectively.

The eldest son graduated from the University of Sciences and is now teaching at the same institution.

The second son, the youngest of the five children, studied at Kim IL Sung University and is engaged in scientific research there. He also holds a Master of Science degree. The young researcher in his twenties is as promising as his father was at that age.

On the occasion of Youth Day last August he presented his work at the National Youth Exhibition of Science and Technology. It was evaluated highly, winning a prize.

It is not hard to see how this rare family are known as a family of intellectuals.

"My wife and I are from ordinary families, yet we have become renowned scientists. And my children all studied at universities and now work in occupations they wished to have. This is the result of the free education system of the state. I hope my family will repay the benefits it has received by giving service to the nation's scientific and technological development, upholding the WPK's policy of giving priority to science and technology," said the father, Kim Sok Gun.

The Motherland to Which He Returned in His Last Years

Choe Tok Sin at writing

Beginning with this issue of Korea Today, the board of our magazine publishes in serial form the book

“The Mother-land to Which He Returned in His Last Years”, which was brought out by the Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House.

Choe Tok Sin, the central figure of the book, was the former Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Chondoist Chongu Party, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and President of the Korean Religionists Association.

Choe once followed the path of treachery to the country and the nation, as he was ignorant of the real meaning of the motherland and failed to understand the ethics of patriotism, although he regarded himself to be a man who loved his country.

In his twilight years, he came to realize that his motherland is the embrace which takes charge of the future of his fellow countrymen and the nation and warmly looks after them. As a result, he took up permanent residence in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and dedicated himself to the cause of national reunification.

The book provides a fascinating insight into his chequered career.

Chapter 1 Wandering

1. POLITICAL EXILE

In a quiet residential district of a small town in the state of Washington, USA, there is a house which is not so large and is surrounded by a small garden. About the time when the moon would hang low over the garden, a nostalgic Korean song could be heard from the parlour on the first floor, day in, day out.

My birthplace is a remote mountain village full of flowers,
Peach and apricot blossoms and lovely azaleas,
A flower palace ablaze with colour.
I long for the days past when I enjoyed myself there.
My native village is full of flowers and birds.
Whenever the wind blows from the south of the green fields,
Weeping willows standing on the edge of the stream dance
I long for the days past when I enjoyed myself there.

A grizzled old man was listening to a song from the record player, shedding tears of sorrow. The man was Choe Tok Sin, living in exile in the US. Beside him was a woman, silently shedding tears as she held Choe by the hand. She was his wife, Ryu Mi Yong.

The couples were living melancholy lives as political exiles. The only thing that touched their hearts was an irrepressible yearning for the place where they were born and grew up. Even when they looked at a full moon hanging in the middle of the evening sky, their thoughts went back to their early days when they would enjoy themselves, listening attentively to old tales told by grown-ups at the entrance to their native villages. And even when they saw a flock of wild geese flying across the sky, their minds would turn to their native land, where boats with white sails glided through the blue water, and the murmur of brooks and the chirping of birds were heard.

Setting foot on the soil of their homeland even once before they died, the homeland where their parents lay buried and their dear children and close acquaintances were waiting for them to return, was the tearful hope of the couple.

"I would like to go there."

"So would I. I also wish to go there."

"I will visit the homeland before I die."

"The homeland? Do you mean the north or the south?"

Questioned by his wife, Choe heaved a deep-drawn sigh instead of giving answer.

In the northern part of Korea, a nation partitioned into two parts, lay his dear native village, the grave of his beloved father and his close acquaintances. And in the southern part of Korea were the grave of his beloved mother, and the children whom he loved and fostered as the apple of his eye.

Although the land of Korea, linked by one and the same territorial stratum, was partitioned into two parts and families of the same blood were also divided, he was eager to visit

Choe’ s birthplace was Sodang village, Uiju County, North Phyongan Province. He vividly remembered the shallow well where water gushed out constantly, even during the droughts of summer; the green fields where he would roll about on the grass,or run after fireflies; the pretty face of the youngest maternal aunt, who helped him wash with cold water the lower half of his body, swollen after being flogged by a village schoolmaster; his boyhood friends, with whom he would bathe, stripping to the skin; and the faces of his tender-hearted neighbours. He missed his native village a great deal.

What do the people of my native village think of me? Will they forgive me, a man who once levelled a gun at them? He wondered.The questions he put to himself agonized him, and

caused him to consider his unsavoury past.
He had crossed the River Amnok at the age of seven, overcome with the sorrow of a ruined people and clinging to the skirt of his mother. After the country's liberation (August 1945) from the yoke of Japanese colonial rule, he could return to his native place. But, displeased with the north's move toward communism, he went south, turning his back on his native place.
He became an officer of the south Korean army and levelled his gun at the northern half of Korea for the sake of the US-backed Syngman Rhee puppet regime.
Choe was promoted to regimental commander, and subsequently to the position of director of the military academy and a divisional commander. His promotion was followed by his going to the US to study at military academy.
No sooner had the war broken out owing to the US imperialists than he hurriedly returned to south Korea on a US plane.
Back in south Korea, he directly commanded battles near Yongdok on the Korean east coast, at Andong, and on the River Rakdong as a divisional commander and the chief of staff of a corps of the south Korean army.
That was not all. Toward the end of the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953) Choe was active as the south Korean army delegate to the armistice negotiations. In March Juche 42 (1953) he was called to the UN Forces Command in Tokyo and appointed the south Korean army delegate to the armistice negotiations.
On his appointment, the commander-in-chief of the UN forces told him to follow only the directives of the UN forces, without reporting to south Korean "president" Syngman Rhee.
The idea of attending the truce negotiations without receiving instructions from his own "government" went against the grain with Choe. Moreover; he thought that he could not leave the south Korean "president" uninformed of his appointment as the south Korean army delegate, as he regards the "president" as the chief representative of national interests.
He therefore immediately called on Syngman Rhee, who was staying at his villa in Jinhae at that time, as soon as he returned to south Korea from Tokyo.
"Your Excellency, I have been appointed the delegate to the Panmunjom negotiations," announced Choe.
"What delegate?" asked Rhee.
"Although the nomination of the delegate is in the hands of General Clark, I am a Korean serving in the south Korean army.I should like to take instructions from Your Excellency before taking office," Choe explained.
"Um, the delegate to the armistice negotiations should be a Korean like you," said the south Korean leader.
Rhee was pleased with the south Korean army general, as the latter recognized him as the "president" at the time when everyone was bent on currying favour with their US master. He patted the latter on the shoulder with an air of satisfaction and gave instructions, saying, "You must not make too much haste with the work of concluding the Armistice Agreement. We must fight against the communism of the north to the last, so you must bitterly oppose the demand for the repatriation of the POWs made by the northern side. Then the truce negotiations will be frustrated."
As instructed by Syngman Rhee, Choe expressed the position of his "government" to oppose the DPRK's demand for sending back the POWs and delayed the ceasefire conference by announcing his "non-participation". As a result, he found favour with Syngman Rhee and was promoted to corps commander, putting him in the front line of the struggle against the DPRK.
Looking back on the course of his life which had not been consigned to oblivion, he thought that the people in his native place would never forgive him, as he pointed his gun at his native village, and had gone as far as to delay the ceasefire conference. Lost in deep thought, he recalled a famous maxim: "One must not discard one's own country, nor can one live on, turning one's back on on's native town."
Oh, why have I spent my life turning my back on my native place? Choe shed tears of remorse, writhing in a desperate agony.
Heaving a heavy sigh with his eyes shut, he thought about the southern part of Korea, the place where his children were waiting for him to return. He had left that land, spitting at it.
The turning point had come when Park Chung Hee's military coup, called the May 16 military revolution, was effected according to a script written by the Uaited States.
At the time, Choe was the south Korean ambassador to South Viet Nain.
In countries based on "liberal democracy" it is usual practice for ambassadors appointed by a previous regime to ask whether the new one shows confidence in them or not. In other words, they should submit their resignation to the new regime, even for the sake of appearances.
However, all the south Korean ambassadors who had been appointed by the Syngman Rhee puppet regime fled to the US.
But Choe, believing in the words of Park Chung Hee that "the young men of the army will return to the army after putting politics on the right track", sent the following telegraphic message of encouragement to the Supreme Assembly for National Reconstruction: "It is usual for a fierce tiger in the mountains to become powerless if it goes out into the streets. It is very good that the men of the army say they will come out and clean up the dirty streets of Seoul and then return to the army.
Thanks to this telegram, which won Park Chung Hee's favour, Choe was appointed head of a goodwill mission and was able to visit Australia, New Zealand and 13 other countries, including those of Southeast Asia, at a time when the politicians who had conducted activities under the previous regime were thrown into jail on corruption charges. During his foreign tour, he tried to boost the prestige of Park Chung Hee and expressed support for the new regime, despite being put to shame and subjected to insults. As a result, he took office as foreign minister of the Park Chung Hee regime and participated in the south Korean-Japanese foreign ministers' talks held in March Juche 51(1962).
Sitting opposite Japanese Foreign Minister Kosaka, he said to the Japanese, who were covetous of Tok Island: "Tok Island belongs to our country. It affords no scope for further discussion."
This attitude toward Japan caused great anxiety to the US, the wirepuller of the south Korea-Japan talks and Park Chung Hee.
Park Chung Hee hurriedly sent the director of the south Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jong Phil, to ensure that the treacherous south Korean-Japanese talks reached settlement without Choe's knowledge.
Choe was not even allowed to save face as a "cabinet minister" under the military regime.
He was removed from his position and was later installed as ambassador to West Germany (the name at that

time).
Park Chung Hee instigated the East Berlin incident (the kidnapping of Yun I Sang) through the then KCIA director Kim Hyong Uk, again without Choe's knowledge. Choe was stigmatized as an unwelcome person who had infringed upon the sovereignty of another country, and he was almost expelled from West Germany.
Choe subsequently became patriarch of the Chondoist faith, with the resolve to dedicate the remaining years of his life to the revival of Chondoism.
As soon as the sphere of activity for the propagation of Chondoism was widened and the voices calling for "promoting the interests of the nation and providing for the people' and "opposing westerners and Japanese" became louder, the Park Chung Hee regime openly persecuted Chondoists, fearful of its traitorous nature being laid bare.
The regime sowed dissension among believers in Chondoism and split them by infiltrating KCIA agents into its internai organization. Added to this, it went so far as to plot Choe's downfall on the charge that he had embezzled a large amount of money, slinging mud at him by spreading a false rumour and threatening him.
Choe realized that under the dictatorial military regime he could not protect his life, far less defend his honour. This led him to extricate himself from south Korea and take refuge in the US, leaving behind his mother, who was on her deathbed, and his dear children.
He could not go to the south of Korea again. In fact, the mere mention of it made him shudder.
Looking back on his life, Choe came to fully realize that he could not return to the north, nor could he go to the south. He was left in the pitiable state of a tortoise that could live neither on land nor in water. He felt an overwhelming sense of grief.
Before he knew it, the full moon riding low over the garden waned and the sun rose, glowing in all its splendor. Seeing the morning sun rising in an alien land, he felt a heaviness in his breast, as the sight made him yearn for his native land.
He asked his wife to go and get him a glass of water. As soon as his wife brought it to him, he put it on the altar and opened his oppressed heart, looking at the azure sky.
"Oh God! Do you reaily exist? May you look after this old and exhausted wanderer! Isn't there even an inch of land for me to live peacefully in my homeland of three thousand ri? Isn't there any holy man who will hold me warmly in his embrace? Oh, God!"
(To be continued)

Specialities of Hamcivonq Province

There is no region without its own speciaiities across the DPRK. Hamgyong Province, among other areas, is known for its many delicacies. At present the province is classified into North and South Hamgyong provinces, Ryanggang Province and Kangwon Province.
The area features dozens of kinds of special dishes, such as hoeguksu (noodle with shreds of seasoned raw fish), starch noodle, pickled mustard leaves and stems, and a walleye pollack dish, of which hoeguksu and Hamhung starch noodle are the most famous.
Hoeguksu is made by using potato starch noodle, with shreds of seasoned raw fish such as waileye pollack, while Hamhung starch noodle uses shreds of seasoned meat such as beef, chicken and pork for flavouring.
These noodles are tough and very tasty, enjoyed by anybody.
The local people love to eat the noodles on the day before the 15th of January, and prepare and eat the dish on folk holidays and many other occasions as well.
The best of the pickles of the area is that made of leaf mustard in Kilju.
Belonging to the kind of pickled mustard leaves and stems it is yellowish, and tastes pungent and refreshing.
Every autumn the Kilju people climb mountains and pick mustard leaves. The leaves are pickled in salt and mixed with onion, garlic, ginger, and powdered red pepper before being put in pots. They are kept seaied and the pickles are often served as side dishes to welcome visitors.
The area is also famous for its walleye pollack dish. Koreans call the fish myongthae because it was first caught by a fisherman whose surname was Thae, living in Myongchon County.
The local residents are noted for being thrifty and meticulous, so they make it a rule to find, process and make effective and economical use of anything edible. As a result, they even use the walleye pollack's head and intestines to make special processed food such as pollack sausage, salt-pickled pollack tripe, and salted pollack roe.
The local specialities also include four kinds of steamed dishes and three fruits.
The steamed dishes comprise steamed spring chicken, steamed crab, steamed pollack and steamed herring.
Steamed spring chicken is eaten as an invigorant in the period of summer heat. A spring chicken has to have its innards removed and is then stuffed with glutinous rice, various seasonings and incense makings before being steamed.
For steamed crab, Pukchong crab caught in spring is the most famous.
Steamed pollack and steamed herring are famous because the two fish are those for which the area is noted.
The three celebrated fruits are Hoeryong white apricot, Pukchong blueberries and Pukchong apple. Hoeryong white apricot has long been regarded as the best of apricots because of its large size, special taste, fragrance and medicinal value. Pukchong blueberries are superior to others and Pukchong apple is famous as one of the most delicious.
The area also has special soil in many places, which has made it possible to produce excellent ceramics since olden times. Those made in Hoeryong, Kyongsong and other areas are especially popular at home and abroad.

With One With and One Mind

The Monument to Three Charters for National Reunification arches over the entrance to Thongil Street, the southern gate to Pyongyang.

It portrays two women of the north and the south of Korea with outstretched arms upholding the emblem of the three charters for national reunification.

The monument is associated with the ardent desire of Koreans in the north, the south and abroad, and the progressives of the world, for reunification.

At both bases of the monument are group profiles in relief. They represent the three principles of national reunification, a proposai for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo and a ten-point programme for the great unity of the entire nation, and the theme “Long Live Reunification!” In rooms under the monument 740 stones donated by various countries and Koreans from the north, south and overseas are displayed. More than 120 stones were sent from organizations and individuais in south Korea.

Engraved on the stone sent by the Korean Catholic Priests’ Council for Justice were the words “Independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity”, while on the stone from a resident of North Chungchong Province the words “Let’s reaiize the three charters; Long live the reunified Korean nation!”

Nearly 200 stones were sent by organizations of Chongryon (the General Association of Koreans in Japan) and Koreans in Japan.

Biotite granite, which is regarded to have been formed 60 million years ago, was processed and donated by the headquarters of Chongryon’s Ibaraki Prefecture branch association.

Carved on the 600 mm by 900 mm stone sent by the Youth League of Koreans in Japan were the words “Let’s become youth vanguards brightening the Kim Jong Ii era, a new century of reunification.” On the stone, 600 mm high and 675 mm wide, seni by the standing committee of the headquarters of Tokyo Chongryon were the words "Let's achieve independent and peaceful reunification through the great unity of the whole nation."

Koreans in China donated 150 stones to be put on display at the monument, and Koreans in the US, Russia, Ukraine, Canada, Australia and other countries aiso sent rare stones.

Sincerely hoping for Korea's reunification and expressing their complete sympathy with the three charters of nationai reunification, precious stones were sent by the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Guinea, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Ireland (M-L), the chairman and secretary general of CILRECO (International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea), as well as noted individuals and friends of various countries of the world; more than 110 in all.

The monument is now visited by many people every day.

Ri Pok Nam, permanent advisor of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, who visited the monument as a member of the delegation of Koreans in Japan, said, "The Monument to Three Charters for National Reunification, built in a grand and distinctive style, is the pride and joy of the nation," and went on:

"This monument, built to reflect the aspiration of our fellow countrymen to put an end to the national division that has lasted for half a century and achieve national reunification, is a masterpiece and an everlasting representation of the profound ideological content in a perfect artistic way.

Leader Kim Jong IL has illumined the way to national reunification with the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, and led the cause of national reunification and global independence to victory through his historic visit to Russia. Thanks to his skilled guidance, Korea will become a powerful, pros-

perous and reunified country."

Kim Myong Hui, member of the delegation of the Federation of Korean Nationals in China, emphasized that the Monument to Three Charters for National Reunification is a monument which will convey the great achievements of President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL and their ideas for national reunification for generations to come, and added:

"Leader Kim Jong IL defined the three principles of national reunification, the proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo and the ten-point programme of the great unity of the entire nation as the three charters for national reunification. He has led the reunification movement of the nation with these. charters as a guideline.

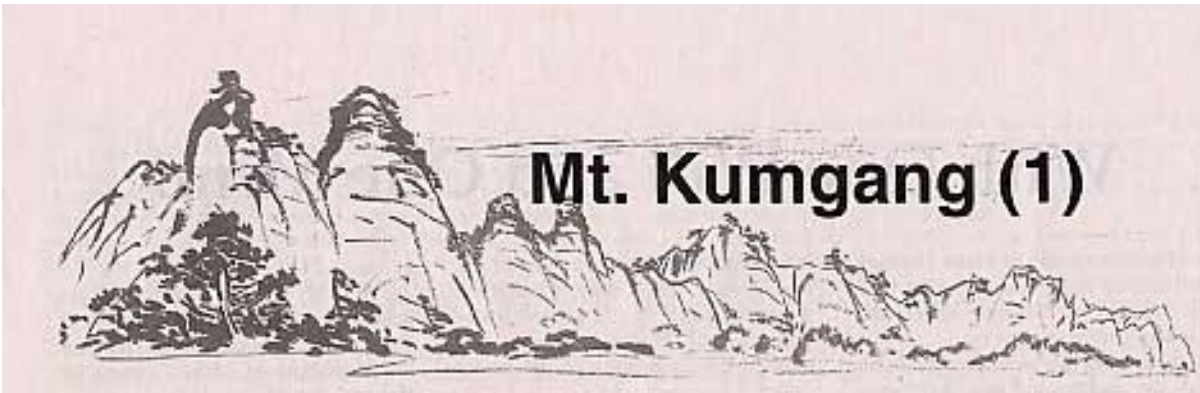
The monument will convey the imperishable achievements of President Kim 11 Sung and leader Kim Jong IL generation after generation."

Kim Yong Sul, chairman of the United Confederation of Koreans in the Ukraine, said that through the erection of the monument, Koreans have clearly demonstrated their unanimous aspiration and will to achieve national reunification without fail under the banner of the three charters. He pointed out:

"The monument, based on the one will and one mind of all the countrymen in the north, the south and abroad, represents the absolute support of the whole nation for the three charters, and confirms that the historic day of national reunification under the banner of the charters is not far distant.

The monument, symbolic of the reunification programme common to the nation, greatly inspires all Koreans to accomplish the cause of reunification. It demonstrates the greatness of the Jucheoriented policy on national reunification, and illustrates the firm will of the nation for the establishment of a united Korea which is powerful and prosperous."

Kim II Sin



Mt. Kumgang is situated in the northern part of the Thaebaek Mountain Range which stretches from north to south along the east coast of Korea. It is one of Korea's most celebrated mountains.
Forty kilometres from east to west and 60 km from north to south, it consists of 12,000 peaks, the highest of which is Piro Peak at 1,639 metres.
Sawtooth-like peaks, multifarious rocks of fantastic shapes, stone gates, flat and rotund mountain ridges, cliffs, falls, valleys and pools...
Koreans have long called this collection of natural beauties the Diamond Mountain.
The mountain is home to over 100 species of special plants, 38 kinds of animals, 130 sorts of birds, nine kinds of reptiles, ten species of batrachians and 30 kinds of fish.
The title of DPRK Labour Hero was awarded to the electric locomotive Pulgungi No. 1 in September last year.

The locomotive was the first of its kind to be manufactured in Korea. The workers and technicians of the West Pyong
It has many names.
In spring it is called Kumgang Mountain as it looks like diamond; in summer Pongrae (mugwort-thriving) Mountain, as it is so thickly wooded that it is cool and beautiful, and attract fairies on hot summer days; in autumn, Phungak (music) Mountain, because it is ablaze with red and yellow maple leaves and appetizing fruit ripened, putting songs on lips; in winter Kaegol (dogbone) Mountain, since it is covered with white snow and soaring rocks of fantastic shapes resemble white bones.
The mountain abounds with Buddhist temples and hermitages, stone pagodas and other historic remains and relics.
It also has many legends, including that of Mt. Kumgang's Eight Fairies; the legend of three celestial beings who, taken by the wonderful moun
yang Railway Factory (now Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Factory) built the locomotive in August 1961, true to the policy of electrifying the national railway network. After seeing it, President Kim Il Sung named it Pulgungi
tain scenery, are said to have forgotten to ascend to heaven and finally hardened into three rocks; and the legend of Samil Lagoon, whose beauty is said to have bewitched a traveller to stay for three days though he had intended only to stop over.
There are rest houses, camps and 40-km of sightseeing trails at different places on the mountain.
Onjong village boasts of its 500-year-old hot spring. A clear stream flows through the village, and the clear lake and green pine grove in the area offer a pretty sight.
The hot spring, with a water temperature of 37-440C, is effective in treating agaifist nontubercular heart problems, hypertension and other conditions.
Mt. Kumgang is divided into three sections—Outer Kumgang, Inner Kumgang and Sea Kumgang.

Title of Labour Hero to Pulgungi No. 1

The title of DPRK Labour Hero was awarded to the electric locomotive Plugungi No. 1 in September last year.
The locomotive was the first of its kind to be manufactured in Korea,. The workers and technicians of the West Pyongyang Railway Factory (now Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Factory) built the locomotive in August 1961, true to the policy of electrifying the national railway network. After seeing it, President Kim IL Sung named it Pulgungi (red flag).
During the last 40 years, the crew have taken good care of the train and thus kept it in full, accident-free operation, surpassing its transportation target every year.

Developing DPRK-Russia Relations

We have now greeted the second year of the new century.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation are countries which border each other, and the two have a long history of fraternal relations.

Over the past 50 years, the peoples of the two countries have cooperated closely in the struggle for the righteous cause. In the course of this struggle the historic roots and traditions of Korea-Russia friendship were built.

To expand and develop friendship and cooperation between the two countries in line with their mutual interests is the desire and demand of the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Korea-Russia friendship is of great importance in guaranteeing peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

Leader Kim Jong IL's visit to the Russian Federation and his meeting with President Putin last year, together with the DPRK-Russia Moscow Declaration adopted at the time, was another landmark in the development of the Korea-Russia relationship.

The top leaders of the two countries exchanged views on the matter of further developing the relationship and issues of common concern, including the international situation. They reached a consensus of views on all matters discussed. The Moscow Declaration is the declaration of independence of the 21st century, a banner for safeguarding peace and a key part of the strategy of national prosperity. It is the motive power forcefully promoting the incessant development of Korea-Russia friendship and humanity's cause of independence and peace.

Last year the governments and peoples of the two countries waged a vigorous struggle under the banner of the Moscow Declaration, achieving great Success.

The exchange of delegations and contacts took place in various fields, and practical measures for the development of the relationship between the two countries were implemented, clearly demonstrating the vitality of the Korea-Russia friendship.

The new year of 2002 brings increased hope to the peoples of the two countries.

We will continue to develop relations between Korea and Russia under the banner of the Korea-Russia Joint Declaration adopted in Pyongyang in July 2000 and the Moscow Declaration adopted last year.

Only a river separates the DPRK from Russia, a good neighbour. To achieve stability, harmony and the building of a powerful Russia is the desire of the Russian people and the policy of the Russian government.

In Russia, positive measures have been taken in many sectors under the guidance of President Putin, and success has been achieved in the task of building a powerful Russia. Many domains are developing on a stable footing, and military and other state power has been strengthened. Russia's status and influence in the international arena are increasing.

We sincerely hope that the efforts of the Russian people to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and build a strong Russia will bear fruit.

Our people are hastening their work to build a powerful socialist state with great national pride. The army-centred policy of our Party has paid dividends. The single-hearted unity of our country has been cemented further and its political, economic and military positions consolidated. A bright vista for national reunification has been opened as a result of these efforts.

The Russian people have expressed support and sympathy for the just cause of the Korean people.

The 21st century calls for putting an end to the history of domination and subordination which lasted too long. This must be a century of independence, in which each country and nation can freely exercise its right to sovereignty and equality.

We will actively strive for global strategic stability together with the Russian people.

I am sure that the friendly relationship between Korea and Russia will further develop in the new year.

Kim Yong Ho, Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries

Taekwon-Do Centre To Be Built

A Taekwon-Do center is to be built in the Rason area, which lies in the northeastern part of Korea. The center, which is to be built in a unique architectural style, will occupy more than 150 hectares of land. At the heart of the center will be a Korean-style international hall for martial arts events simultaneously. In the vicinity of this hall, from the swimming beach on the east coast to the foot of the nearby mountain, buildings of various types will be built in a harmonious style.

The site is also expected to include hotels, a race track, a ground for folk games, a location, restaurants, clinics, a communications center and other service networks.

To Uphold and Implement the Purpose and Principles of the UN

In the year 2000, heads of state and government from all the countries of the world held the New Millennium UN Summit and committed themselves to building a peaceful and prosperous world in the new century. However, current developments in the international arena are casting a dark shadow over the implementation of this commitment.

Due to some forces that regard military strength as a means of omnipotence, the principles of equality and respect for state sovereignty, the foundations of international relations, are being shaken.

If unilateral strong-tactics are accepted, as they are today with the US upsetting strategic stability in pursuit of hegemony by establishing the missile defense system (MD) in defiance of international opposition, the world will be drawn into another cold war and a new arms race.

Today, the Korean issue is always put forward as one of the central problems in discussions on world peace and security.

This is because in the international relations the policy of "strength" and other high-handed practices are now mainly targeted on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Huge armed forces, equipped with nuclear weapons are deployed in and around the Korean peninsula, on the pretext of the "threat from north Korea," posing a constant danger to the DPRK. This is the very source of instability on the peninsula and in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

In recent years the DPRK honorably defended its dignity and sovereignty and made a contribution to regional peace and security, withstanding the offensive of the hostile forces single-handed while making the “Arduous March”, a period of trials without precedent in its history. Its success is entirely due to the army-centered politics of leader Kim Jong IL.

He conducted energetic foreign diplomacy, visiting China and Russia, and holding discussions with a high-level delegation from the European Union. Through these events he made a great contribution to the development of international relations as a whole, and to world peace and security.

In particular, a consensus of views was reached with both China and Russia on the matters of strengthening the leading role of the UN. in resolving major international issues and ensuring strategic stability, and documents reflecting this were agreed at the highest-level meetings and talks. This marks a historical milestone in the task of forming a righteous new world based on the principles of mutual respect and reciprocal cooperation.

The DPRK will, as ever, resolutely defend its sovereignty and socialist system, and confidently follow the path has chosen, true to the army-centered leadership of Kim Jong IL. Reunifying the divided country at the earliest possible date is the unanimous desire of all the Korean people.

Thanks to leader Kim long IL's belief in national independence and unity, a meeting between the leaders of the north and south took place in the year 2000 for the first time in history and the North-South Joint Declaration was published.

The joint declaration enjoyed widespread support from the international community, and the 55th Session of the General Assembly of the UN unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the declaration as it reflected the ardent desire of the Korean people to achieve the country's reunification by the concerted efforts of the Korean people themselves.

After the joint declaration was made, the Korean peninsula bubbled over with enthusiasm for reunification, and multi-channeled dialogue and contacts were realized. This showed that the Korean nation could achieve reunification by its own efforts if the north and the south had face-to-face talks with the sincere intention to reunify Korea independently.

However, owing to the hostile policy of the new US administration towards the DPRK and its unreasonable attempts to interfere in Korean affairs, the relationship between the north and south, which had seen gradual improvement with the first steps in the implementation of the joint declaration, has now chilled significantly.

The history of more than half a century of division, and the experience gained in the past year and a half in particular, prove that if the joint declaration is to be implemented, both sides must believe in national independence above all.

Only when the north and the south cooperate and the members of the Korean nation cooperate can they carve out a bright future free from foreign domination.

The most important thing for the implementation of the joint declaration, for peace on the Korean peninsula and for the nation’s reunification is to put an end to hostile attitude of the US towards the DPRK.

- The United States says that its deployment of huge armed forces on and around the Korean peninsula and its staging of large-scale military exercises against the DPRK are "for the sake of peace", and that the defensive measures taken by the DPRK to cope with the US military threat constitute a "menace to peace".

This logic cuts no ice with anyone.

The DPRK's missile program is of a peaceful nature. It does not pose a threat to any country which respects the DPRK's sovereignty. The United States says that it will establish the missile defense system to combat the "threat" of the DPRK' s missiles, despite the fact it already has enough nuclear bombs and missiles to destroy mankind more than ten times over. There is no sense in the US argument. It is aimed at covering up their strategy of world domination based on military superiority. Now that the Cold War has come to an end worldwide and the north and south are moving towards reconciliation and cooperation, there is no justification whatsoever for the continuing presence of US forces in south Korea.

The withdrawal of US troops from south Korea is a pressing issue whose solution brooks no delay if peace and security are to be ensured on the Korean peninsula and elsewhere in northeast Asia.

Dialogue should be held on the principle of impartiality and equality.

The resumption of DPRK-US talks will be possible only when the present US administration discards its outmoded way of thinking, adopted in the period of the cold war, and adopts a position similar to that taken by the Clinton administration towards the end of its term of office.

The DPRK has now established diplomatic relations with almost all member nations of the European Union, as well as with the European Union itself, on the principles of respect for sovereignty and equality.

The DPRK will strive to develop relations with the United States as well, on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, if it respects the DPRK's sovereignty and the liberty of choice, acts in good faith and does not hamper the reunification of Korea.

The evermore undisguised moves of Japan to turn to the right and revive militarism are another factor destabilizing the prospects of development on the Korean peninsula and surrounding areas.

The DPRK delegation at the plenary meeting of the 56th UN General Assembly in November last year called the attention of all UN member nations to this matter.

While evading the settlement of their past crimes and instead attempting to justify them, contrary to normal ethical and moral standards, those in authority in Japan have publicly visited the Yasukuni shrine, where the departed souls of Japanese war criminals lie buried, distorted the contents of school history textbooks and legalized the overseas dispatch of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

Japan conducted another test-firing of the H-2A, a long-range rocket, in August last year. The H-2A can easily be converted into an intercontinental ballistic missile. This proves that the endeavour to turn the country into a great military power has become state policy once again and is being stepped up relentlessly.

Japan continuously described the DPRK' s launch of a satellite for peaceful purposes as the "launching of a missile". It is now attempting to stir up military confrontation, openly stating that her recent rocket test was designed “to cope with the north Korean missiles." Japan should not misjudge the peace-loving stand of the DPRK, which has decided to temporarily suspend the launching of satellites, and the peaceful nature of its missile program.

The DPRK urges Japan to approach the current situation responsibly, settle her unsavoury past crimes in a thorough manner and finally take the road of peace in this new century. Such a move would benefit Japan as much as the other nations of Asia.

The most important task facing the UN member nations today is to strengthen the UN' s central role in international issues. It is essential that all member nations respect the UN Charter and faithfully implement it. The charter clarifies the purpose and principles of developing friendly international relations on the basis of equality of sovereign power.

Yet some forces are now taking aggressive unilateral action, and even resort to the use of armed force against sovereign states without hesitation, in violation of the UN Charter.

The member nations should reject all action running counter to the charter and all principles and norms of international law, and strive to form a fair and just new world order based on the rule of law and the principles of equality, mutual respect and reciprocal cooperation for the sake of global stability and security.

If the leading role of the UN in global issues is to be strengthened, it must be reformed on democratic lines.

Any reform should ensure that democracy is guaranteed and equity is observed in all UN activities.

In connection with this, the DPRK believes that it is of vital importance to increase the power of the General Assembly. The General Assembly should have, at least, the power to discuss matters of international peace and security and approve key decisions on this issue taken by the Security Council. The Security Council should be reformed in line with moves to increase the power of the General Assembly.

The DPRK insists that reform of the Security Council should be carried out thoroughly and in conformity with its fundamental purpose.

It is important that the UN's activities for international peace and security are conducted in a thoroughgoing and equitable manner by ensuring the participation of the developing countries.

The UN should call upon its member nations to pay greater attention to more practical issues in order to eradicate poverty and achieve development.

Opposing all forms of terrorism and any support to it is the principled and consistent stand of the DPRK government.

The terrorist outrage perpetrated in the United States on September 11 last year was a deeply regrettable and tragic incident that reminded everyone of the seriousness of terrorism.

The military attack on Afghanistan by the United States has given rise to increased global instability and unprecedented destruction of manpower and material resources.

The prevailing situation demands that the UN take the leading role in preventing terrorism and that all its member nations fully discharge their duty for the eradication of this problem.

The DPRK signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention Against Taking of Hostages. This is a proof that the DPRK is exerting every possible effort to prevent terrorism worldwide.

The DPRK's opposition to terrorism reflects its desire to promote world peace and stability, defend the country’s sovereignty, and protect the lives and property of the people.

Recklessly branding those countries that insist upon equality of sovereign power as terrorist countries, trampling down sovereignty through unilateral armed intervention, applying sanctions, and inflicting untold hardship upon civilian populations are acts which can never be tolerated.

In addition, employing the method of war in the struggle against terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances, for it causes the death to innocent people and creates instability in various regions.

The DPRK will continue to cooperate positively with all UN member nations in the effort to uphold and implement the purpose and principles of the UN, true to the ideals of -independence, peace and friendship.

General Hospital of Koryo Medicine

The opening ceremony of the General Hospital of Koryo Medicine, on Munsu Street in Pyongyang with its elegant, Korean-style roof, was held in April last year.

The hospital, on a site of l4,500 square metres, is made up of an acupuncture and moxibustion research institute, a human constitution research institute, an internal diseases clinic and operating theatres, all of which are vital to the improvement and strengthening of the Koryo medical service, the development of Koryo medical science and the training of scientific and technical personnel.

The hospital has been developed in a unique way by rationally combining Koryo and modern medicines.

The various departments have all been provided with modern medical equipment for diagnosis and treatment suited to their particular requirements. Apparatus and facilities for conducting experiments and other research have also been supplied.

In the hospital, which is a comprehensive base for the development of Koryo medicine, medical treatment and research work are undertaken simultaneously.

Koryo medicine is Korea's traditional form of medicine. It has been contributing to the promotion of people's health and the treatment of their conditions for centuries. As an indigenous form of medicine, it makes use of medicinal herbs and other drugs abundant in Korea, tailoring its techniques to the lifestyles and constitution of the Korean people. The hospital is currently giving priority to the work of modernizing Koryo medicine by putting it on a scientific basis, part of a wider trend in Korea today.

The physical constitution research institute has classified the constitution of man into four groups, and is now stepping up research in various fields, ranging from the predictive diagnosis of diseases through to the suitability of Koryo medicines to these groups.

In the past, doctors of Koryo medicine performed diagnosis by taking the pulse of the patients and listening to their description of their symptoms, but researchers have now updated this method of diagnosis to make it scientifically-based and modern. After conducting painstaking research, they have succeeded in establishing the criteria required for the classification of the physical constitution. On this basis they have developed a system which is capable of classifying a patient’s physical constitution into one of four groups (thaeyangin, thaeumin, soumin and soyangin in Koryo medicine) and of scientifically making predictive diagnosis.

This system makes it possible to identify which type of physical constitution the patient has in 20 to 30 minutes. The system can also prescribe up to 50 kinds of Koryo tonic and 100 kinds of medicine suited to the particular constitution of the patients.

Doctors at the hospital have registered good results in introducing an assembly-line service capable of combining diagnosis based on modern medicine with that based on Koryo medicine.

Researchers at the acupuncture and moxibustion research institute are conducting research into acupuncture, moxibustion, massage and treatment by use of cupping glasses.

Formerly, acupuncture and moxibustion were mainly used for the treatment of pain, paralysis and functional disorder. But these methods have now reached a higher stage of development, and are applied to the treatment of hundreds of different conditions, including internal diseases.

Electronic acupuncture and moxibustion, treatment using electronic magnets and many other advanced techniques have been developed.

One unusual method is the treatment given by stimulating acupoints using the fingers or the palm of the hand.

Researchers at the institute are striving to develop a comprehensive form of treatment by combining massage, fingerpressure therapy and other traditional methods with Koryo medicine theory.

This form of treatment has proved effective not only for articular diseases, but also for cerebral apoplexy, hypertension, paralysis of the nervous system, gastric ulcers, women's diseases and eye diseases. In particular, it lessens fatigue, activates the physiological functions and metabolism of the human body, wards off disease and promotes health.

It is also a good method of beauty therapy.

Good results have been achieved at the internal diseases clinic, too. It is engaged in the treatment of ten kinds of internal disease, including those of the digestive, respiratory and urinary

An outer view of General Hospital of Koryo Medicine.

Treatment of diseases hard to cure.

Application of electric acupuncture.

Moxibustion.

Ultrasonic examination.

Computerized diagnosis.

Preparation of Koryo medicine

In-patients' ward

Manual remedies are introduced.

Technical consultation.

organs and the circulatory system, ant also conducts research into interna treatment and medicines.
Typical examples of this researci include a long-term clinical researci project on the treatment of ischemic heart disease by the use of newl3 developed granular drugs, analysis oi outbreaks of cerebral apoplexy resulting from the eyeground changes by hypertension and examination of long term treatment by Koryo medicine.
The clinic has over 80 rooms furnished with 400 beds. Patients in these rooms are given special treatment for 40 days.
Most of the medical workers at the clinic are the holders of academic degrees or titles.
They have written a large number of medical books by synthesizing the experience accumulated in the course of medical treatment. In addition, they devote a great deal of effort to the training of junior staff.
Since Juche 78 (1989), the hospital has been a traditional medicine cooperative research centre of the World Health Organization.
As part of this role, it has published a magazine to disseminate technical information relating to traditional medicine, in close contact and cooperation with the health organization of the United Nations. It also publishes an annual bulletin on traditional medicine which is distributed to 180 countries and regions.
More than ten books have been published in English, such as Clinical Treatment by Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Folk Remedies for the Stage of Primary Health Care and Small Encyclopaedia on Household Medicine. The hospital is actively involved in exchanging experience gained in treatment and research with hospitals in Russia, Poland, Libya and many other countries.

Anti-US Movement in South Korea

The anti-US movement is gaining momentum in south Korea. The south Korean people are fighting the US imperialists who bring great suffering to them and hinder the process of Korean reunification.
A recent feature in their antiUS struggle has been the strengthening of organized political forces. Mass united organizations comprise progressive students' bodies, democratic movement bodies and civil bodies.
More than ten anti-US united organizations demanding the abolition and amendment of the South Korea-US Status of Forces Agreement have appeared such as the National Movement Headquarters or National Action for the Amendment of the South Korea-US Status of Forces Agreement consisting of Minjurochong (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions), Gyongsilryon (Civic Federation for Economic Justice), and other civil and public bodies. Those united organizations include over 300 bodies. Anti-US struggle bodies already in existence and non-government bodies, such as the Movement Headquarters for the Eradication of US Soldiers' Crimes in South Korea and the Action Committee of the Sufferers from US Air Bomb Explosions, are working in real earnest to form a united anti-US front.
Last June, Minjurochong, Hanchongryon (Korean Federation of University Student Councils), Chamyoryondae and the National Chondoist Priests' Association for the Practice of Justice, as well as 100 other civil, religious and social bodies, formed the Pan-National Action Committee for the Closure of the Maehyangri US Bombing Range.
The National Movement Headquarters for the Withdrawal of the US Forces from South Korea set up its own internet website which explains the injustice of the US military presence in south Korea and exposes the atrocities of US soldiers. It is also conducting a 100,000-signature campaign, as well as regular polls of public opinion on the pull-out of US forces. Some visitors to this website are said to express their willingness to "cut out the hearts" of the US imperialists, or propose to set a 50 million won price on each Yankee head.
The south Korean people of every walk of life are showing increasing enthusiasm toward developing the struggle for the withdrawal of the US forces and military bases under nationwide solidarity.
Hanchongryon, the National Federation of Peasants' Associations and other mass organizations declared that the Rogun-ri massacre of defenceless civilians by US soldiers during the Korean war is only the tip of an iceberg, and that all Koreans must unite as one and jointly investigate all the massacres of defenceless people committed in Korea.
Jongukryonhap (National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification), together with nongovernmental bodies and the progressive press, insists that it is high time for the 70 million Koreans to unite as one and wage a nationwide struggle for the withdrawal of US forces from south Korea. They expressed their will to vigorously develop the anti-US struggle jointly with the north.

Noteworthy in the anti-US struggle, reaching new levels after the publication of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, is the establishment of a joint action committee to oppose the missile defence system and achieve peace. It comprises more than 40 civil organizations, including Minjurochong, Chamyoryongdae and Jongukkyohap.

The committee, formed last April, is a united civil solidarity association of groups fighting against the Bush administration's adventurous missile defence strategy.

The US recently demanded that the south Korean authorities provide new land for US military bases in exchange for merging, abolishing and returning some military bases to south Korea. This sparked off new anti-US protests among south Korean people.

The return of land was proposed in the joint land management plan submitted by the US imperialists to the ministry of foreign affairs and trade of south Korea in March 2000 to boost the image of the US forces there, shaken by the mounting anti-US struggle of the south Korean people.

The plan is to return 6,600 hectares of land by 2007, one fourth of all the bases and establishments used by the US forces in south Korea.

The US move was a response to the demand for the return of military bases resulting from the south Korena people's long anti-US struggle for independence, waged under the slogan, " Yan-kees, go home!"

South Korea's Green Association and other anti-US organizations denounced the expansion of US military bases as a criminal destruction of the south Korean environment, saying that the land the US imperialists declared they would return has become unusable due to environmental pollution. They demand that all US military bases be returned or reduced in scale.

Groups formed by people living near US military bases in different parts of south Korea demand their immediate closure.

The newspaper Hangyore and other south Korean publications called for the complete closure of all US bases, not just a cosmetic reduction in the number, stating that the US military bases in south Korea are the main cause of rising anti-US sentiments among the people.

According to reports, over 2,400 south Koreans were killed or wounded by military exercises at US military bases between 1992 and June 1996, and such tragedies still continue.

That is why the south Korean people are now protesting, shouting the slogans " The US forces are not protectors of this land but destroyers of everything and the sworn enemies of the nation!"

The south Korean people's mounting struggle for independence from the US will end the shameful history of national division, created by foreign forces, and bring about national reunification at an early date

Jo Song Hyok

South Koreans demonstrate for the withdrawal of US trrops.

Working Itself Into a Tight Spot

A dark cloud rises into the sky in the form of a mushroom from a South Pacific launch site. A test firing of new ballistic missile is conducted by the United States.

We can hardly take no notice of it because it is the result of the criminal ambition of the US to dominate the world by strengthening its nuclear and conventional missile strike capability and enforcing absolute military and strategic predominance.

In this new century, the world is at the crossrodes; will we take the road of cutting the number of nuclear weapons, or will we plunge mankind into the catastrophe of nuclear war by reviving the nuclear arms race? The US missile defence system is at the heart of this matter. The system is a very dangerous nuclear war plan aimed at militarizing space, endangering and even striking other countries, based on US nuclear superiority, and establishing military domination over the world by overpowering the other big powers.

The United States is doing its utmost to realize this criminal programme. It threatens mankind with catastrophe, attempting to justify its actions by taking issue with the DPRK. According to an official notice from the Bush administration to the governments of Russia and other countries, the US is planning to conduct 17 missile interception tests in the coming 14 moths.

No country in the world has nuclear weapons as many as the US. Some time ago, Bush asked why the US had so many nuclear weapons, expressing his surprise at the fact that more than 20,000 nuclear warheads are stored at US bases.

These weapons of mass destruction are the means of attack in war. They gravely threaten not only civilization, but the very existence of humanity.

According to available data, if all the nuclear missile carried by a Trident-type submarine were fired, over 50 million people would be killed.

The simple existence of nuclear test suggests that owing to the reckless moves of the US to establish the missile defence system, a new era of nuclear confrontation has been initiated and the risk of another thermonuclear war created.

To dominate the world by force of arms is the unwavering strategy of the US imperialists. The US is desperately trying to strengthen its military power with the intention of achieving its ambition of world domination by military means.

To overpower the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and invade and dominate Asia, with the Korean peninsula as a bridgehead is the Asia strategy of the US. Far East expert at the US Heritage Foundation, referring to the future orientation of US foreign policy, said that Asia is the key to the policy in the 21st century, and the Korean peninsula is the focal point. They added:

Without solving the problem of the Korean peninsula, peace and security in northeast Asia
and the interests of the US in this region cannot be guaranteed, nor can the establishment of a new international order with the US playing the leading role be guaranteed.

Hence, the US, supposedly to cope with the "threat" posed by Korea, frequently stages war games to beef up its armed forces in south Korea and its vicinity.

An instance is provided by the fact that US defence secretary, Rumsfeld and other high-ranking officials of the US administration asserted that due to the end of the Cold War, keen attention should be paid to the Asia-Pacific region, now the biggest potential threat to the US. As a result of this view, part of the US military equipment in Europe was moved to the Asian region.

The US-led joint military exercise Rimpac 2000 is another cause of concern to the DPRK. This exercise is an out-and-out preparation for war, and its main target is the DPRK. The US has staged this war game regularly with the mobilization of its allied and satellite nations.

Owing to the adventurous military moves of the US, the peace and security of Asia and global strategic stability may be wrecked and a new arms race begin.

The US should give up its anti-peace moves. The current of the present times is not towards confrontation and tension but peace, development and prosperity. If the US attempts to maintain and strengthen its hegemonic position over the Asian-Pacific region it will, in the long run, bring only trouble to itself.

Crimes That Become Graver With Time

JAPAN was the only country which failed to settle its crimes of the 20th century before the dawn of the 21st century. For this it is now flayed and lambasted by the international community. The 57th meeting of the UN Human Rights Committee unanimously adopted a resolution on the Japanese imperialists' crimes of sexual violence. The resolution pointed out that the crimes of providing comfort women for soldiers and other cases of sexual violence should be punished by law, and demanded that the Japanese authorities recognize their legal responsibility for the crimes and pay compensation to their victims.

The voices of censure are strong in Japan as well. The newspaper Japan Times carried an article entitled "Crimes to Be Recompensed Without Fail", which criticized the Japanese government for refusing to settle their criminal past and urged it to offer a solution at an early date.

Japan's apology and compensation for its past criminal aggression is its inescapable legal and moral obligation, and the demand of our times. They cannot be delayed any longer.

But the Japanese authorities, far from trying to face their criminal past, are embellishing the country's history of aggression, in an attempt to be a military power once again and revive militarism.

The Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force is going to replace its anti-tank helicopters with ten of the latest Apache attack helicopters within four years and equip itself with 50 such helicopters eventually.

The SDF are planning to procure many tanker planes during the current mid-term defence build-up plan. When Japan possesses tanker planes, it will be able to transport its military equipment over a long distance and expand the operational theatre of the SDF considerably. In the 2002 fiscal year, Japan is going to make a large investment in the launch of information satellites.

This February and July, Japan is planning to launch two such satellites, and in the 2005 fiscal year it plans to launch two more. It is also planning to make additional investment in the research and development of two new-type satellites and deploy them in the outer space in the 2008 fiscal year.

The aim of the Japanese authorities is to repeat their history of aggression and become the "leader" of Asia. That is why they are embellishing their bloodstained past. This ambition is clearly a policy error.

Japan will never be able to be the "leader" of Asia. Their attempt to realize this ambition by military means will only lead to self-destruction.

Other vanquished nations of the 20th century which invaded other countries have deeply reflected on their crimes and compensated or are compensating for them.

Several dozen years after the end of the Second World War, Japan has not yet made reparations. It is due to this fact that its conscience, morality, way of thinking and notion of peace are doubted by the international community.

Unless Japan settles its criminal past, it can never be trusted by its neighbours.

The denunciation and protest of the Asian people that was touched off by the visit of Prime Minister Koizumi and government ministers to the Yasukuni Shrine last August, provided stark evidence of this.

To get out of the tight corner it has placed itself in, Japan must settle its past honestly. In particular, it must settle its past with Korea, geographically its nearest neighbour and the nation which suffered most from Japan's crimes.

In his reply to the questions put by the Russian Itar-Tass press agency on July 24 last year, leader Kim Jong IL said that the key to improved relations between Pyongyang and Tokyo was for Japan to admit and atone for the crimes committed against Korea and the Korean nation in the past.

As long as Japan refuses to face its past, the Korea-Japan relationship will not see any improvement.

If Japan wants to be trusted by the international community and act proudly, it must reflect on its crimes without delay.

Patterned Koryo Vase

This vase, bearing a pattern of cranes and flowers, is a relic of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) period.

The vase is shaped like a terrapin, with its front and back side having an even surface. It is of grayish jade green colour.

Its body is inlaid with a pattern of cranes and flowers and four lion heads are visible on its upper part.

There are many Koryo ceramic vases shaped like a terrapin, but this example is noted for its well-balanced and refined shape.

Viewed in terms of its artistic quality, the relic is of great value, for the beautiful inlaid pattern of cranes, reeds, and the like blends well with the jade green colour.

The vase, 32 centimetres high, is now preserved at the Korean Central History Museum.